This is a digital copy of a book that was preserved for generations on library shelves before it was carefully scanned by Google as part of a project to make the world's books discoverable online.

It has survived long enough for the copyright to expire and the book to enter the public domain. A public domain book is one that was never subject to copyright or whose legal copyright term has expired. Whether a book is in the public domain may vary country to country. Public domain books are our gateways to the past, representing a wealth of history, culture and knowledge that's often difficult to discover.

Marks, notations and other marginalia present in the original volume will appear in this file - a reminder of this book's long journey from the publisher to a library and finally to you.

Usage guidelines

Google is proud to partner with libraries to digitize public domain materials and make them widely accessible. Public domain books belong to the public and we are merely their custodians. Nevertheless, this work is expensive, so in order to keep providing this resource, we have taken steps to prevent abuse by commercial parties, including placing technical restrictions on automated querying.

We also ask that you:

+ *Make non-commercial use of the files* We designed Google Book Search for use by individuals, and we request that you use these files for personal, non-commercial purposes.

+ *Refrain from automated querying* Do not send automated queries of any sort to Google's system: If you are conducting research on machine translation, optical character recognition or other areas where access to a large amount of text is helpful, please contact us. We encourage the use of public domain materials for these purposes and may be able to help.

+ *Maintain attribution* The Google "watermark" you see on each file is essential for informing people about this project and helping them find additional materials through Google Book Search. Please do not remove it.

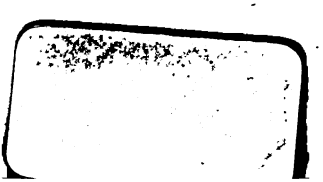
+ *Keep it legal* Whatever your use, remember that you are responsible for ensuring that what you are doing is legal. Do not assume that just because we believe a book is in the public domain for users in the United States, that the work is also in the public domain for users in other countries. Whether a book is still in copyright varies from country to country, and we can't offer guidance on whether any specific use of any specific book is allowed. Please do not assume that a book's appearance in Google Book Search means it can be used in any manner anywhere in the world. Copyright infringement liability can be quite severe.

About Google Book Search

Google's mission is to organize the world's information and to make it universally accessible and useful. Google Book Search helps readers discover the world's books while helping authors and publishers reach new audiences. You can search through the full text of this book on the web at `http://books.google.com/`

Digitized by Google

1824
449



Digitized by Google

Digitized by Google

Digitized by Google

J. H. 1825

CAROLINE, AND ZELITE;

OR,

TRANSATLANTIC TALES,

TAKEN FROM REAL LIFE.

BY

ANNA WHITE SMITH.

LONDON:

CHARLES FREDERICK COCK,

64, PATERNOSTER ROW.

1824.

449

Digitized by Google

J. and C. Adlard, Printers,
Bartholomew Close.

Digitized by Google

TO

COLONEL DAVID STEWART,

OF GARTH.

DEAR SIR,

I return you many thanks for the kindness and condescension with which you have permitted the following Tales to be dedicated to you; and remain,

With respect and esteem,

Your humble servant,

ANNA WHITE SMITH.

Digitized by Google

Digitized by Google

CAROLINE.

At the close of a sultry day in July, Lieutenant Bellgrove, at the head of a recruiting party, arrived at the market-town of ——. As he entered the suburbs, his attention was attracted by a low wall, set round with flowering shrubs, which enclosed a brick building that stood apart from the road; and a board in the front of the house informed him it was a boarding-school for young ladies. Its fair inhabitants, who were amusing themselves on a lawn before the house, attracted by the sound of fife and drum, ran precipitately to the wall: one, more eager than the rest, dropped her hat. Mr. Bellgrove called to his men to halt, and taking up

Digitized by Google

the hat, returned it to the young lady; who, in her confusion, let a rose fall from her bosom, which he instantly seized, and gallantly kissing it, fastened it in his coat, while the young lady, covered with blushes, had vanished behind her companions: but she had not so immediately disappeared, as to prevent the Officer from noticing the uncommon loveliness of her form and figure. She was just between the woman and the child,—the age which Hayley has so charmingly described in his Sphere of Sensibility. The Officer, after this little incident, continued his march, and having entered the principal inn in the town, and seen his men accommodated for the night, called for his landlord and inquired the names of the several seats which had attracted his notice on entering the town: that of Selwyn particularly struck his attention, as being that of an old school-fellow of whom he had not heard for several years. A few inquiries convinced him it was his early friend. A

Digitized by Google

note dispatched to Selwyn brought him in a few hours to the inn, and they mutually rejoiced in the renewal of their acquaintance.

Selwyn was some years older than Bellgrove, but a similarity of taste, disposition, and pursuits, had attached them to each other. Selwyn on his entrance into life had married an amiable young woman, who was in the possession of a large fortune which enabled him with his own splendid one, to set down in elegance and comfort for life on his paternal estate, to which he now conducted Bellgrove; who found him surrounded by a young and beautiful family.

Bellgrove was the younger son of a noble but indigent family, and was expected to carve his fortune with his sword.

Mrs. Selwyn received the friend of her husband with cordiality, and rejoiced in a circumstance which had given him so pleasant a companion; as he was at the very moment of Bellgrove's arrival me-

Digitized by Google

ditating an escape from the monotony of a country and married life, and he had been trying to prevail on his wife to let him take a tour to one of the watering-places during her accouchement, which was about to take place with her fifth child. The manners of Bellgrove were like those of Selwyn, gay and vivacious: they neither of them possessed much stability of character, and each were governed by the impulse of the moment, which led them eagerly to pursue what most contributed to their amusement. They were both handsome, and in the general acceptation of the word, accomplished: they danced well, rode well, and sang well. Bellgrove had served abroad, and added the advantage of foreign manners and a military air to his appearance.

It became the business of Mrs. Selwyn to promote such amusements as would best beguile the time, and prevent their growing languid at home. She condescendingly concealed her own superior

Digitized by Google

understanding and qualifications, to accommodate herself to their tastes and different capacities. On Sunday, Mrs. Selwyn carried her new friend to church. A handsome young fellow in regimentals is an object of no small importance in a country church. Various glances were cast at him from different quarters of the church, while his own regards were fixed by the entrance of Mrs. Grove and her school into a pew in the gallery. He soon distinguished the lovely girl, whose hat he had picked up on entering the town; and the timid look of confusion with which she regarded him made him flatter himself he had been remembered by her; and his delight was extreme when Mrs. Selwyn, meeting the school as it descended from the gallery, requested permission of Mrs. Grove, its mistress, to carry home with her the young lady who had attracted so much of his attention. The request was instantly granted by the governess, and Bellgrove had the inexpres-

Digitized by Google

sible delight of handing the young friend of Mrs. Selwyn to the carriage, and seating himself by her side with a perturbation that almost deprived him of utterance during the ride. On their arrival at Selwyn Manor, the young lady ran eagerly into the nursery, and returning immediately with two of Mrs. Selwyn's children, hastened into the garden to gather fruit and flowers.

"For heaven's sake! who is that beautiful girl?" exclaimed Bellgrove, as the object of his inquiries shut the door.

"Her name is Caroline Woodley," said Mrs. Selwyn, surprised into a momentary look of gravity by his sudden admiration of her; "she is the daughter of a particular friend of mine, who, by an imprudent second marriage has placed this poor girl in a state of dependence on her husband, whose decided preference of his own children by another marriage makes Caroline's situation so uncomfortable at home, that I relieve her mother from the

Digitized by Google

mortification of seeing her ill-treated, by keeping her with me; and, from being often with me, she seems as fond of me as if I were her mother."

"She is as beautiful as an angel!" exclaimed Bellgrove.

"You must admire her less warmly," said Mrs. Selwyn, "or I shall not bring her from school again while you are here; and that would be a great disappointment to her, for the holidays are at hand, and she always passes them with me. Caroline is too much of a child to be talked to of love: therefore, if you are not discreet, you will see her no more."

Bellgrove promised to be very cautious in his behaviour; but, at the same time stealing his hat from a window-seat, hurried into the garden to join Miss Woodley and the children.

The summer vacation made Caroline an inmate at Selwyn manor, and Mrs. Selwyn's accouchement took place about the same time; and for a fortnight

Digitized by Google

Caroline was left to the undisturbed attentions of Mr. Bellgrove, whenever he could escape from the notice of Mr. Selwyn, to whom it never occurred that Bellgrove could think of such a child as Caroline Woodley, further than to romp with her as he did with the other inhabitants of the nursery.

A maiden sister of Mrs. Selwyn, who staid with her during her confinement, though much engaged in nursery duties, saw what was going on and alarmed Mrs. Selwyn with her suspicions, who immediately took measures for sending Caroline on a visit to her mother, who lived at a great distance.

Caroline was young, and artless as unpractised infancy could make her; her heart had never been permitted to expand in love to her own relations. Mrs. Selwyn loved her, and had supplied the place of a mother to her; but she had many objects to divide her affections, and many cares to occupy her leisure hours. Caroline

Digitized by Google

therefore had always felt isolated, and her heart, young and inexperienced as it was, sighed for some object on whom to fix its affections. Such a one soon offered in this fascinating son of Mars: Caroline became enchanted with the picture he drew of the pleasure and endless vanity of a military life. He alarmed her fears, and excited her tenderness, at the idea of his departure for a foreign country, and enlarged on the little probability there would be of their ever meeting again if once separated; and discovering it was the intention of Mrs. Selwyn to send her far from him, he made use of the advantage he had gained over the artless and affectionate mind of Caroline, and, infatuated by love and heedless of consequences, prevailed on her to commit her future destiny to him, and in an ill-fated moment induced her to elope with him.

As soon as they were united, he wrote a penitential letter to the Selwyns, imputing his rashness to the effects of ungo-

Digitized by Google

vernable love, and the conviction he felt of their refusing their sanction to his marriage. Mrs. Selwyn wept, and too late blamed her own want of foresight in introducing so dangerous an acquaintance to an inexperienced girl of fifteen. Mr. Selwyn treated the matter more lightly: he had not thought Bellgrove such a fool as to marry such a girl without money, and never supposed the girl, as he called Caroline, had so much spirit. The step, however, was without recal, and they wrote in the kindest manner to invite the delinquents back to their house, where they remained until the following autumn. The mother of Mrs. Bellgrove had taken too little pains to guard her daughter against this imprudent step she had taken, to assume the right of condemning it. One thousand pounds, all that Caroline had a right to expect from the imprudent disposal of her mother's property, was given to her husband through the intercession of Mr. Selwyn, and Caroline was

Digitized by Google

allowed to pass a few weeks with her mother, the longest period she had ever spent with her since her second marriage.

Early in the ensuing spring, Bellgrove received orders to embark for Canada; and the Selwyns accompanied their young friends to Portsmouth, to attend their embarkation. Many were the admonitions imparted to her young friend by Mrs. Selwyn, on her conduct in a world with which she was so little acquainted, and fearful were the forebodings her affectionate heart suggested of evils to come; tears impeded her utterance as she strained Caroline to her heart in a last embrace.

The feelings of Caroline were new and indescribable as she ascended the deck of a crowded transport, and prepared, with a large fleet of ships, to launch into the world of waters. The extreme youth and loveliness of Mrs. Bellgrove joined to her apparent interesting situation, excited for

Digitized by Google

her the attention of Mrs. Saville, the wife of the officer who commanded the detachment going to America.

Mrs. Saville had left her young family at school in England, and was therefore, at present, divested of cares for herself, and kindly turned her thoughts to Caroline, whose youth and apparent helplessness, combined with an entire ignorance of her situation, excited her pity. She immediately exerted herself to procure for her accommodations near herself, and by her kindness and experience saved her from many inconveniences, which, as the wife of a subaltern officer, she would have suffered. Caroline soon recovered from her sea-sickness, and, amused and interested by the novelty of a scene so new to her, exerted herself by cheerfulness and good humour to repay the civilities of Mrs. Saville, whose kindness for her increased every moment. New ideas expanded the mind of Caroline as she surveyed the vast expanse of ocean, as it

Digitized by Google

darkly tumbled beneath the blast, or as she watched the glorious orb of day as it slowly sunk beneath the waves. In the evening they usually sat on the deck until a late hour, and watched the ships which sailed in the same fleet, some of which had instruments of music; and they would approach near enough to catch the sound as it floated over the water.

No occurrence of any consequence marked the voyage, and they arrived safely at Quebec where they had been long expected, and after a few days joined their regiment at Montreal.

Captain Somerville, the brother of the new friend of Caroline, had prepared accommodation for his sister and her husband; and Mrs. Saville made him resign his own apartments to Bellgrove, until they could be better accommodated.

Mrs. Bellgrove was delighted with the military parade and bustle of a garrison town, the martial drum and spirit-stirring fife, with all the "pride, pomp, and cir-

Digitized by Google

cumstance of glorious war." Bellgrove had been wearied with the voyage, and was most happy to find himself on terra firma. He soon obtained permission from his wife to let him mess with his brother officers, and in a short time she only saw him two or three hours in a day. Military duties and the various pursuits of his companions, in which he eagerly joined, left him but little time to domesticate with Caroline, and she would have been much alone had it not been for the kind attention of her friend Mrs. Saville, who often invited her to her apartments; and when the weather was wet, used to send her brother, Captain Somerville, with books or music to entertain her; but, as Caroline found that Major Saville and most of the married officers generally dined and passed their evenings with their families, she ventured to remonstrate with Bellgrove on his passing so little of his time with her. Bellgrove, unused to reproof from Caroline, and not expecting it, answered pettishly.

Digitized by Google

It was the first time her husband had ever spoken hastily to her, and she wept. Bellgrove was offended, and said, if she learned to scold, he should be afraid to come home.

The tea-table of Mrs. Saville was usually surrounded with the most desirable of the officers who composed the military establishment at Montreal; and Mrs. Saville, on Caroline's account, regretted to see that Bellgrove seldom joined them.

Caroline believed that the hours that Bellgrove was absent from her were passed with his brother officers, or in the pleasures of gaming and drinking, to both of which she knew he was addicted: they were habits from which she would have wished to wean him, as she was fully aware of their destructive tendency; but on finding that her remonstrances and complaints offended him, she was too gentle to repeat them, and in time forbore to make them. Caroline tenderly loved her husband, and was hurt to confess even

Digitized by Google

to herself that his affection was less ardent than on the first six months of their marriage: but in the excesses of gaming and drinking, she fancied she had seen the extent of the evils she had to apprehend. Alas! she knew not that there was one still more dreadful to endure: it had not entered into her thoughts that Bellgrove no longer loved her; but this, though a secret to her, seemed but too well known to her friends, and to the camp in general.

Colonel Clairville, who commanded the troops at Montreal, was a relation of Bellgrove's; he had brought with him to Canada a very lovely woman, who was generally believed to be his mistress: Bellgrove alone, from his intimacy with and relationship to the Colonel, had access to this lady. Mrs. Saville, with her husband and brother, had often met Bellgrove walking or riding with her; but, as Caroline had not been informed of it, they forbore to mention it to her; but to them it was apparent, when Bellgrove was

Digitized by Google

absent from home, his hours were devoted to the beautiful Spaniard (for so it seemed she was). All this might be with the Colonel's knowledge; but those who were disposed to be censorious in the community pretended to trace the visits of Bellgrove to the Colonel's quarters in his absence.

Mrs. Saville noticed the dejection of her young friend, and redoubled her care to remove it: in this she was assisted by her brother, Captain Somerville. It was hardly a safe occupation for a young man of two-and-twenty, whose heart was unoccupied, person handsome, and manners irresistibly engaging. The strict rectitude of his manners in avoiding the gaming-table and bottle, had excited the envy and dislike of the most dissipated young men of the regiment, who considered him as a spy on their actions, and the censor of their conduct.

Bellgrove, though the first effervescence of his passion was past for Caroline, had

Digitized by Google

not become so entirely indifferent to her as to be unconcerned at her situation; and the more he reflected on it, the more he became dissatisfied with himself, and displeased with the insidious observations excited by envy in his brother officers on the frequency of Captain Somerville's visits to his wife in his absence. His suspicions once excited, several circumstances arose in his mind to corroborate them, for

——"trifles, light as air,
Are, to the jealous, confirmations strong
As proofs of holy writ."

Bellgrove returned one evening with his mind thus prepared: Somerville was leaning over Caroline's chair, and accompanying her in a song; for Somerville had procured from a lady of his acquaintance the loan of a piano-forte, which had been long out of tune, and with some exertion he procured strings. Being a proficient on this as well as other instruments, he had put it in order for Mrs. Bellgrove; so that when he knew her to be alone, he

Digitized by Google

used to go and accompany her with a flute or clarionet, which he had left at the house for that purpose. He was thus employed when Bellgrove came home one evening unexpectedly. Somerville, who, from his knowledge of his notorious neglect of his wife, did not feel much esteem for him, soon took his leave. As soon as he departed, Caroline arose and went to her husband, who had thrown himself on a sofa: she saw that he was unusually discomposed, and he soon explained to her its cause, and forbade her in an abrupt manner to receive the visits of Captain Somerville. Caroline was shocked and alarmed at the vehemence of his manner and unjust suspicions; but observed, with indignant composure, that she could not give up his acquaintance without relinquishing that of his sister, Mrs. Saville: "and her acquaintance," said Caroline, with all the courage she could assume, "is the only solace I have." Bellgrove considered this as a reproach, and said in

Digitized by Google

a determined tone of voice that she might take what measures she pleased respecting Mrs. Saville's acquaintance; but that if Captain Somerville did not discontinue his visits, he should find some means of making him do so.

Caroline passed this evening alone, having sent to excuse herself from going to Mrs. Saville's, where she had been engaged. Bellgrove came home late, and went to bed without speaking to her. Caroline was in doubt what steps to take in regard to relinquishing the acquaintance of Mrs. Saville: to inform her of her husband's suspicions respecting her brother, was to banish them all from her house; and what a requital will it be, thought Caroline, for so many acts of friendship and kindness.

As she was thus thinking, she looked up and saw Somerville advancing to the house with an Eolian harp under his arm, which he had taken home to have new strung. She retreated to her chamber,

Digitized by Google

and bade her servant say she was indisposed. She heard him place the harp in the window, sigh heavily, and leave the house.

Caroline came into the room as he departed; the apartment was filled with the most exquisite tones which the harp is capable of producing, and Caroline giving way to the melancholy it excited, which was increased by her own painful feelings, wept aloud, when the sound of martial music called her attention to the window, and she saw a large detachment of men marching by, at the head of which was Captain Somerville. She was just in time to receive a bow from him as he disappeared between a row of chesnut-trees that skirted the edge of a common in front of the house.

Caroline took the harp from the window, and pressing it gently against her bosom with a feeling she could hardly define, shut it up in its own case, and awaited the return of Bellgrove, impatient to hear

Digitized by Google

the destination of the troops which had just passed, and which she observed were equipped for a long march.

Some days elapsed before any intelligence arrived. News of a victory at length came, which had been obtained with great slaughter; Captain Somerville and several of his brave comrades were killed, and their remains were brought in for interment.

Major Saville too in another quarter had been wounded, and his wife had left town suddenly to meet him.

The following day the remains of the brave officers and men were to be buried. Bellgrove had invited some officers to breakfast; Caroline with difficulty poured out the tea, and would have retired when it was over, but Bellgrove called her back to tie on his scarf; with cold and trembling hands she prepared to obey him, and having finished the melancholy task, retired to give a loose to the feelings she could no longer control.

Digitized by Google

In a few minutes the funeral obsequies of Somerville and some of his brave comrades passed under the window. Caroline saw the long procession wind through the same trees which the column had a few days before passed on its way to the field of death. She listened to the solemn sound of the instruments as they died away in distance, and remained at the window until the last volley had fired, and then threw herself on the bed, and by tears relieved the sorrow which oppressed her.

The recent engagement had given a jar to the feelings of those who were inured to such scenes, and the diversions which usually took place of an evening at the barracks were on this night suspended. Bellgrove came home accompanied for the first time by his friend and relation Colonel Clairville, and some officers. Caroline had been before introduced to him, but had only been in his company for a few minutes, and the reason already

Digitized by Google

recited of his having a lady residing with him had kept him at a distance from the married officers and their wives.

He seemed now to have seen Mrs. Bellgrove for the first time, and though habituated to the daily sight of a very beautiful woman, he could not help being struck with the more mild and unobtrusive charms of Caroline. Her beauty was less dazzling than the face he was accustomed to contemplate, but it was more interesting, and the mild and melancholy expression of her countenance denoted a feeling mind, and by betraying that she was unhappy, insensibly stole upon the heart, and under the disguise of pity. Clairville noticed her swelled and tearful eyes, and observed that she could with difficulty inquire after Major Saville: her intimacy with that family was well known. He seated himself at her side; all the philanthropy of his character was awakened, and he promised himself to ascertain the situation of Major Saville in the morning,

Digitized by Google

and himself bring her the intelligence respecting him. He joined her at the tea-table, and took Somerville's office of pouring out the tea; an involuntary shuddering seized the hand of Caroline as she received a cup from Colonel Clairville, and she fancied her husband read her thoughts, but Caroline felt they were such as angels might have scrutinized. When tea was over the gentlemen took their leave, and Caroline was glad to retire to her room, and court a short oblivion to her cares.

In a few days the sensation excited by the recent battle had subsided, and it was scarcely thought of except by those who had lost their friends. Mrs. Bellgrove had the satisfaction of hearing that Major Saville's wounds, though severe, were not dangerous. She had a melancholy letter from her friend, who lamented the death of her amiable and accomplished brother, in which Caroline was well disposed to join her. But Caroline's thoughts were

Digitized by Google

soon drawn from this afflicting event by concerns which more immediately related to herself.

Colonel Clairville was, we have already said, a relation of Bellgrove's, and of a noble but poor family, and like him a soldier of fortune; he had served in several campaigns abroad, where he had more than once distinguished himself. He had been persuaded by his friends early in life to marry a lady much older than himself; by her he had been advanced in the army, and to her he was indebted for the very splendid establishment he enjoyed. Gratitude had supplied in his heart the place of love, and by the most scrupulous and devoted attention he prevented his wife from discovering that she did not possess his heart. Susceptible by nature and highly gifted both in person and mind, he might have been tempted to have wished to meet a kindred mind, but circumstanced as he was, and bound as he scrupulously considered himself by the ties of honour

Digitized by Google

as well as gratitude, he would have thought it criminal to seek for one, and had carefully shunned since his marriage the company of beautiful or engaging women; but the destiny of man is not under his own guidance.

Colonel Clairville was carried wounded from the field of battle by a Spanish officer of high rank, and conveyed to his own house in the neighbourhood of the battle.

The family of the Count Dolrandos, the preserver of Clairville, consisted of two sisters and his mother, to whose care and the Colonel's own valet he left him, and returned to the field of action.

One of the young ladies, and by far the most beautiful, was a widow; she had been sacrificed at an early age to a man old enough to be her father, whom she married to avoid the alternative of going into a convent; a species of policy often practised in the noble families of both Spain and France, to provide for the

Digitized by Google

younger branches of the family, particularly the females.

Antonia Dolrandos, nearly eighteen, had just been emancipated from this species of slavery, and was now the uncontrolled mistress of her fortune and actions. She was on a visit to her family at the momentous period of Colonel Clairville's being brought to the house. Her mother both from age and infirmities was incapable of attending to their wounded guest, and the charge therefore devolved on her daughter.

Antonia was struck by the noble air and handsome person of the wounded cavalier. It reminded her of the tales she used to read in her youth of wounded knights who were brought to old castles, and in the circumstance of Clairville being brought so unexpectedly among them she had realized some of the visions of her youth. The romantic turn of Antonia's disposition had been encouraged by a

Digitized by Google

fellow boarder in the convent where she was educated. A young woman born in England, but of Spanish parents, had early given her a wish to see that country, and had given to her so animated a description of England and English men, that Antonia had imbibed a strong desire to see them both. This friend too had advised her marriage, telling her if she outlived her husband, which was probable, she would be her own mistress, and with her large fortune could go and live in England, the uncontrolled mistress of her own actions: she gave her too an exalted opinion of the deference that would be paid to charms like her's, and the influence of a beautiful woman both in France and England. Antonia had arrived at the state of independence foretold by her friend, and the arrival of Colonel Clairville at the castle of Dolrandos seemed to promise the fulfilment of the rest of the prediction.

It was some time before Clairville discovered that he was attended by any one

Digitized by Google

but his servant, but as more light was admitted to the apartment he perceived that his valet was assiduously assisted by a lady in black, that his pillows were smoothed by her careful hand, and the soft perfume that scented the air was poured on his handkerchief by her. Chance one day, on awaking from a refreshing slumber, gave to him a view of the most lovely object he had ever seen. Antonia was leaning over him, and shading his eyes from a ray of light which fell through the casement. Her veil was thrown back, and her large black eyes were fixed on his face, as on seeing him awake she inquired after his health. Antonia was delighted to find herself answered in her own language by Clairville, who spoke Spanish and French as well as his servant.

Clairville once pronounced better, his convalescence became rapid, and he was soon able to be removed to another apartment and enjoy the society of the family. Love under the mask of gratitude was im-

Digitized by Google

perceptibly stealing into the heart of Clairville, and the expressive eyes of Antonia told him it was a language she understood. Aware of his danger, he determined resolutely to rouse himself from it, and began by an honourable and candid acknowledgment of his being a married man. Antonia heard the avowal with grief and disappointment, but unacquainted with the honour of that mind which dictated the avowal, she did not despair. The first surprise overcome, Antonia resumed her usual habits of fascination; Clairville acknowledged their power, and determined to fly from them. He was still too weak from his wounds to return to his post in the army, and therefore determined on immediately obtaining leave to return to England. He concealed his intention until his leave of absence had arrived, and then took a hasty leave of the family of Delrandos, who saw him depart with unfeigned sorrow.

Antonia had however suspected his

Digitized by Google

design; she had made a confidant of his servant, and secured him in her interest. Clairville, from his state of health, could only travel by slow stages, and at one of them Antonia in male attire overtook him. Clairville was surprised, disconcerted, and grieved by the imprudent and determined conduct of Antonia. He had possessed sufficient firmness to own his marriage, in the hope of checking her attachment; he had possessed sufficient fortitude to fly from her, but he did not possess sufficient resolution to resist her intreaties to unite her fate with his, and follow his fortune throughout the world. She had brought with her a large proportion of her fortune, of which she courted his acceptance. Here was a romantic proof of love and heroism, which few men in Clairville's situation could have resisted, and he was not altogether invulnerable. The high-souled Count Dolrandos he knew would resent the supposed insult to his family honour, and despise the man who could

Digitized by Google

thus repay his hospitality with ingratitude. He was now at a distance with the army, and before an account of what had taken place in his family could reach him some time must elapse. The consequence to Antonia, should he pursue them, must be dreadful, and he would instantly confine her in a convent for life. No alternative therefore now remained but to pursue his journey with as much expedition as his convalescent state of health would admit, and on his arrival in England with his beautiful and frail companion, secure her from the pursuit of her exasperated friends, should they be inclined to resent her conduct; and then was Clairville forced into an act against which every principle of his mind revolted. Love too, in such a mind as Clairville's, could not long exist without esteem for its basis. Pity and admiration, excited by the beauty, graces, and romantic generosity of Antonia, which had led her to sacrifice her country, friends, and reputation, for

Digitized by Google

the happiness of living with him, supplied the place of esteem in his heart; and while he regretted that he could not commend her conduct, he could not help loving her. Every moment that could be spared from his wife was devoted to her, but he felt that his connexion with her could not long be concealed, and convinced her of the necessity of his soliciting for a command in America. This he immediately obtained, and a friend who commanded a frigate, and was going to that station, gave to himself and beautiful companion a passage in his ship.

Antonia, though persuaded of the necessity of leaving England, left it with reluctance.

She was, at first commencing the sea-voyage, too much overpowered with sea-sickness to think of her situation; but when this subsided, and she heard the hollow sound of the sea as it dashed against the head of the ship, and surveyed the vast expanse of ocean, a sensation of

Digitized by Google

mingled grief and terror passed over her mind.

"Her country, friends, all that once were dear,
Rush'd to her mind, and forc'd a tender tear."

She asked for Clairville, in hopes in his kind looks to find some consolation for what she had relinquished; but Clairville was in vain seeking to find for himself the consolation which Antonia wanted. He was weakened by his recent illness, and the harassed state of his spirits from being dissatisfied with his own conduct, had produced a perturbation of mind which had nearly shaken reason from her seat. He surveyed the surrounding flood with a look of desperation, and almost a question whether it would not be better to relieve the agony of his mind by rushing into it at once. He was awe-struck by the horror of his own thoughts, and felt with impressive force that the still small voice of reason can only for a time be suppressed in a heart nurtured in its senti-

Digitized by Google

ments, and accustomed even to vibrate to its dictates. The idea of self-destruction vanished for ever from his thoughts:—"The field of glory (thought he) lies before me,—there will I expiate my failings."

The struggle of mental distress was passed; Clairville regained his composure, and the voyage was passed with more cheerfulness than it had commenced. Antonia too resumed her spirits and endeavoured to be cheerful, but her high spirit could but ill bear the degradation she had inflicted on herself; and Clairville saw the evils necessarily attendant upon her situation were only commencing.

On his arrival at Quebec, a new embarrassment arose in his mind, how to dispose of Antonia: most of the officers had wives, from whom what he owed both to himself and Antonia obliged him to conceal her.

It was not to live in solitude that Antonia had left Spain, and not to be transported to a new world, unacquainted with its

Digitized by Google

climate and ignorant of its manners, and to be shut up from all intercourse with the world: even the love of Clairville, had it been more ardent than it was, could not have made amends for all these deprivations. Her disappointment and grief became extreme, and threw her mind into a state of despondence that threatened the worst consequences. Clairville endeavoured to check the progress of a sorrow which seemed undermining the best faculties of her mind; he endeavoured to restore her self-complacency, reminded her of her youth and beauty: at this she only sighed. He was more successful in speaking of her wealth, and the power it gave her of doing good: this argument had a powerful effect in soothing her grief. Her bigotry told her that with her wealth she might purchase pardon for the sins she had committed. The money she brought from Spain had been lodged by Clairville in the Bank of England, in Antonia's name.

Digitized by Google

Antonia was high-spirited and liberal. When Clairville reminded her of her beauty, she only sighed at remembering it was no longer adorned by that virtue which gave it consequence; but when he reminded her of her wealth, it gave to her the most lasting consolation, that of making an expiation through the bosom of the church for the errors of her conduct, among which she knew, in her hours of reflection, that of having loved an heretic would be one of the greatest; but still was she disappointed as to the prospects which had brought her from the bosom of her family.

Clairville still seemed to admire and love her, but she had long discovered their hearts did not beat in unison: there was a coolness and fastidiousness in his manners that did not accord with the animated feelings of a heart which had sacrificed all to love. It was true every moment that could be spared from professional duties was devoted to her, but she fancied his

Digitized by Google

manner betrayed more of compulsion than love. Antonia was incapable of investigating the character of Clairville; could she have penetrated into his mind, she would have seen that those high and lofty principles which had once formed the basis of his conduct, and governed all his actions, had been overturned by her unfortunate love for him, and that he was now placed, for the first time in his life, in a situation at which every principle of his mind revolted.

It was at this period that the arrival of Bellgrove proved a fortunate relief to the mind of Clairville; to him he could reveal his situation, and to him he could introduce Antonia. Bellgrove was under many obligations to Clairville; he had recently assisted him in the purchase of a company, and he found he had a claim to his services; and in Bellgrove, Antonia too found what she had been disappointed in meeting in Clairville, a lover animated as

Digitized by Google

the warmest picture of her youthful fancy had ever formed.

Clairville saw the rise and progress of this attachment without jealousy, and almost without regret; he generously found an excuse for Antonia's instability in his own cold and altered manners, and pleased at being relieved from the burthen of trying to please her, which had long been irksome, he encouraged the visits of Bellgrove, with whom Antonia was always cheerful and well pleased, without once reflecting on the probable consequences of this new attachment, until his introduction to the wife of Bellgrove made him see it in a different point of view. The dejection of Mrs. Bellgrove, the apparent neglect of her husband, and his own knowledge of the passion with which Bellgrove was inspired for Antonia, gave a new subject of alarm to his conscience for having encouraged the acquaintance, lest by so doing he had been unconsci-

Digitized by Google

ously undermining the happiness of a lovely and amiable woman.

He took the earliest opportunity to speak to Antonia of Bellgrove's beautiful wife, though he knew from sad conviction that Antonia's attachment surmounted all obstacles; he however endeavoured to stop the frequency of Bellgrove's visits by an intimation of his own dislike to them. His efforts here proved ineffectual. Antonia's love had changed its object: in Bellgrove she found all the ardour and attachment she required,—in him she recognized the visionary hopes of early years. He too, like herself, was unrestrained by the cold dictates of prudence and religion; and these barriers once thrown down, vice reigned triumphant.

Antonia now listened with eagerness to Clairville's proposal for her going to England, though she did not as formerly, when it was proposed, talk of seeking a reconciliation with her friends, or in a moment of contrition of retiring to a con-

Digitized by Google

vent for life. Bellgrove had also secretly taken measures for procuring his leave of absence for being in readiness to accompany her. This was done by writing to head-quarters, as Clairville was not the colonel of his regiment, but merely commanded a detachment of it that was in the garrison. Thus secretly and quietly arranged, they awaited the embarkation of a ship for Europe.

The time of Caroline's accouchement in the mean time arrived, and Bellgrove was not so lost to humanity as not to shudder at the pangs he was preparing for her; but he consoled himself that Mrs. Saville would supply his place, and bring her with her to England when she had recovered from her confinement; or if Mrs. Saville still was detained by her husband's duty or health, Caroline could always come home alone. But to live with the fascinating Antonia, to be able to dispose of her wealth, (for Bellgrove was mean enough to make it a consideration,) was a

Digitized by Google

temptation he could not resist. Antonia had secured ten thousand pounds in the English funds, on her elopement with Clairville: with this they could travel, live only for each other, and be "to each a dearer self." Every consideration of honour, feeling, duty, and religion, fled before it. An old-fashioned, ill-suppressed feeling of a wish to see his child now and then arose in the heart of Bellgrove, but he soon silenced the busy monitor.

The half-revived principle of early habits and solemn duties were also suppressed in the yet not wholly depraved mind of Antonia, and she felt some regret at building her happiness on the misery of another; but to avoid encountering the reproaches of her friends, or being perhaps shut up in a convent for life, if she should again meet with her brother, were considerations which in her present state of mind were irresistible, and made her consent to the persuasions of Bellgrove,

Digitized by Google

who had arranged every thing for embarking with her.

The season was now rapidly advancing, and Clairville, anxious to take advantage of Antonia's disposition to return to Europe, procured a passage in a merchant ship just about to depart, which was going under convoy. The servant who had accompanied him from Spain was to attend her, with a female servant who came with them from England.

It was not until a few hours before Bellgrove's departure that Colonel Clairville was apprized of his intention: its secret motive was concealed under a pretence of business. Mrs. Bellgrove, though ignorant of the real reason, resolutely insisted on embarking with him. The contest brought on an altercation, that threw her into a premature labour, and gave birth to a sickly female infant, whose cries pierced its mother's heart.

Bellgrove was on the point of relinquishing his project, and had soothed

Digitized by Google

Caroline into some appearance of tranquillity, when an interview with Antonia, and her determination to proceed immediately to Spain, again overturned his last resolves; and he departed in the evening without bidding her adieu. As yet Caroline was ignorant who was to be the companion of his voyage.

His departure, though ignorant of this circumstance, was sufficient to bring on a delirium and fever. An officer's wife, who had made some acquaintance with Mrs. Bellgrove, by her husband's desire remained with Caroline; and he wrote to entreat Mrs. Saville to hasten to her.

Colonel Clairville parted coolly from Antonia. The circumstance of Bellgrove going with her left him no doubt as to the nature of her intimacy, and his feeling mind led him naturally to inquire after Bellgrove's unfortunate wife. He called the next day at the small house which Caroline occupied, and heard, without surprise, of her illness. The officer's wife

Digitized by Google

too, who had been good enough to remain with her, informed him that, from one of her children being ill, she was obliged to go home. Clairville determined to await the arrival of Mrs. Saville.

Under any other circumstances than those for which she had left him, Clairville would have rejoiced at the departure of Antonia Dolrandos; but its consequences to poor Caroline gave him the most poignant sorrow. He waited with extreme impatience the arrival of Mrs. Saville; the entrance of the Doctor, too, incurred his apprehensions of immediate danger, and made him unwilling to quit the house. The apartment he was in was adjoining to that which Mrs. Bellgrove occupied, and he could distinguish her groans and agonizing sobs. He ordered himself to be called when Mrs. Saville arrived, and threw himself on a sofa. Never before had his feelings been so powerfully interested. He regretted that he had not forcibly prevented Bellgrove from depart-

Digitized by Google

ing, and trembled lest he should have the life of poor Caroline to answer for. Wearied at length by his reflections, he sunk into an uneasy slumber, with his head resting on the pillow of the sofa.

Mrs. Saville after a fatiguing journey arrived, and was shown into Caroline's apartment, who was insensible of her presence. She wept over her poor friend, and saw with grief her faded form, where every feature seemed altered to alarm her. Caroline had in consequence of strong opiates fallen asleep; and Mrs. Saville, to conceal her own irrepressible feelings, opened the adjoining apartment, and approached the window. The shutters were still unclosed, and gave a view of the surrounding country. In silent majesty the moon was rising above some high hills, and threw long lines of light through the leafless branches of some tall trees, and rested on a piece of water now crusting over with ice. The solemnity of the scene was heightened to sublimity by an

Digitized by Google

Aurora Borealis, which threw its rich and sombre shade over the surrounding objects. Mrs. Saville turned from the contemplation of the scene to warm her chilled fingers by the expiring embers of a fire, when the faint beams of the moon gleamed on the bright epaulets of an officer, who reclined on the sofa, and whom she had not perceived on her entrance. An involuntary scream of surprise escaped her, and brought Colonel Clairville to her side. She did not expect to meet him in this situation, and some embarrassment for a moment suspended their conversation, which was succeeded by mutual explanations that both astonished and grieved the friend of Caroline. She thanked the Colonel for his humane and disinterested conduct to her poor friend, and they both agreed it would be better to conceal from Caroline as long as possible the extent of her misery.

Mrs. Bellgrove was restored to recollection by the sight of Mrs. Saville; in her

Digitized by Google

bosom she could repose her cares, and weep plentifully.

In a few days Mrs. Saville was able to leave her in a tolerable state of composure, and return to her husband, who was coming to town as soon as he could travel.

It was some weeks before the unhappy wife of Bellgrove had attained to such a degree of convalescence as to enable her to pay such attentions to her infant as it required: its feeble cries first awakened in her mind a wish to live; and roused by its helpless state to attend to it, she soon began to recover her strength.

Colonel Clairville and Mrs. Saville united their cares in ameliorating as far as possible her situation.

The first exertion which Caroline would have made, was immediately to have followed her husband, and she heard, with extreme distress of mind, that the season was too far advanced to attempt it. It was in vain that her kind friends concealed their own indignant feelings at the sever

Digitized by Google

conduct of her husband, and talked to her of patience and resignation. Time, the usual soother of irremediable evils, offered no consolation for the mind of Caroline, as her hopes and fears were constantly excited by the hopes of intelligence from her husband, and many languid months must pass away in "hope deferred" ere any tidings of him could be received.

The nervous and irritable state of mind into which Major Saville had been thrown by his recent wound, made him unwilling that Mrs. Bellgrove should be an inmate with them; it was therefore determined by his wife and Colonel Clairville that she should retain her own apartments. Caroline knew that her husband's finances were not large, and lived with the greatest economy. Much of her time was necessarily passed alone; the season, too, was arrived when few people, but those who were compelled by necessity, liked to quit their own fireside.

Digitized by Google

"The snow spirit had assumed his chilling reign." Nothing was to be seen but hills covered with snow, ice-arrested streams, and leafless trees, the branches of which were gemmed with ice; and through the interstices made by the boughs appeared long pendants of icicles, which glistened in the noonday sun, affording a spectacle of novelty and grandeur that delighted the beholder.

Colonel Clairville, whom no weather confined to his house, generally saw Mrs. Bellgrove every day; and when her mind admitted of being amused and edified by reading, he brought to her such books as he thought most likely to have that effect. By the most delicate and unremitting attentions, he anticipated her wishes; he pitied her forlorn and unprotected situation, and felt that from his connexion with her husband, she had been singularly thrown upon his compassion. An interest new and tender, without assuming any

Digitized by Google

particular form, took place in his heart, and blended her with his thoughts.

The winter passed to Caroline very languidly away, unenlivened by any visitant. Even hope, during this dreary season, had been suspended in her heart; but when the first symbol of Spring had appeared,

"When Flora had breath'd on the icicle,"

and the first bud appeared on the thorn, new thoughts arose. The progress of vegetation in this part of the world is very rapid; the fields and woods were soon covered with verdure, and Nature put on her gayest clothing. Hope once more revived the drooping heart of Caroline; a vessel was momentarily expected from England. The welcome visitor at length arrived; letters for the troops at Montreal were received.

Caroline, on hearing the welcome news, had flown to Mrs. Saville; she found her surrounded with letters and newspapers;

Digitized by Google

none yet appeared for Mrs. Bellgrove. They consoled themselves with hoping that Colonel Clairville had them, as he had been absent a few days at Quebec. Caroline, to conceal the excess of her anxiety and disappointment, and pretending to be consoled with the hope of Colonel Clairville having her letters, and indeed herself thinking it to be possible, took up a newspaper, and for a time glanced carelessly over its contents. By degrees she grew interested, and read with attention the following paragraph, which had fixed and congealed her faculties; she gave a convulsive scream of horror, and the paper dropped from her hand. Major Saville caught the subject of alarm from his wife, and while she flew to the assistance of Caroline, he sought for what had occasioned this sudden distress. The following paragraph soon caught his attention:

"A serious affair took place at the Opera on Saturday evening. A Spanish officer of high rank recognized his sister

Digitized by Google

in one of the boxes, with a British officer, with whom she had two years before eloped from Spain. The offended brother immediately made his way to the box where his sister was seated, who instantly recognized him, and fainted with surprise. The lady was conveyed from the house by a friend, and the high souled and offended Spaniard demanded immediate reparation for the insult offered to his family. A meeting took place at midnight, and the officer, Captain Bellgrove, of —— regiment, who had recently returned from Canada, was killed on the spot. The affair seems involved in mystery: some mistake is said to have arisen respecting the gentleman, Captain Bellgrove not being the person with whom the lady had left Spain, but a Colonel Clairville, now serving with our forces in Canada."

The shock occasioned by this sudden intelligence became too severe for the already weakened and depressed mind of

Digitized by Google

Caroline; sense fled before it, and she remained for some weeks in a state of derangement. During the long and anxious interval of her illness, the kindness and humanity of her friends were exercised to their utmost extent.

Colonel Clairville, and Major and Mrs. Saville, waited only for her recovery to return to England, and they took advantage of the first moment of convalescence in the fair sufferer to undertake their voyage. Reason once restored, the mind of Caroline gained strength every day: irremediable evils, we have already said, seem more easily submitted to than those which we suffer in apprehension. Caroline's mind seemed to have reached the acme of distress, and exerted its native strength in struggling to rouse itself from its dreadful state of suffering. Religion, which is implanted in our nature by the almighty and benevolent hand of our Maker, extended its influence over her mind. All hopes of happiness seemed torn from her in this

Digitized by Google

world, and she looked forward to another and a better one, "where the wicked cease from troubling, and where the weary are at rest." Grief combined with ill health, the consequence of excessive sorrow, had given a saint-like expression to her soft blue eyes, that made them almost heavenly; her figure too had acquired an ethereal kind of lightness, that, combined with the transparent fairness of her complexion, made her seem scarcely an inhabitant of this world, and as she approached, people seemed afraid to raise their voices, lest their vibrations should make her vanish into air. The child, though she was scarcely able to hold it, was always in her arms; and notwithstanding all the disadvantages under which it was born, it grew and blossomed, to the astonishment of all who saw it. A nurse had been procured for it during the illness of Caroline, which was hourly superintended by Mrs. Saville and Colonel Clairville.

The letters of Colonel Clairville had

Digitized by Google.

informed him of the fate of Bellgrove, and added that Antonia had been conveyed to Spain by her brother, to expiate by a life of penance her errors.

The Count Dolrandos (for he it was who had the rencontre with Bellgrove, whom he had never seen,) became doubly exasperated, and endeavoured to take her from him; Antonia refused to accompany him; Bellgrove declared his resolution to protect and defend her, and this brought on the contest which ended in his death.

Dolrandos was well known and highly respected; his case excited pity; he was allowed to depart with his sister, whom he promised to forgive if she would retire to a convent for life. The death of one victim had satisfied his jealous honour; the frailty of his sister having been made so glaring by her second engagement, as to exonerate Clairville from a great proportion of the blame he had fixed on him.

The travellers, with their melancholy charge, arrived in England, and Mrs.

Digitized by Google

Saville conveyed the widowed Caroline to her early friend, Mrs. Selwyn. Heart-breaking was the meeting, and agonizing the retrospection into which the mind of Caroline fell, as she retraced the scenes of her early years, and recalled the first declaration of Bellgrove's love. The unfeeling husband was no longer remembered; but the lover of her youth returned, as she surveyed the hallowed spot where they first met. Her tears flowed fast, and Mrs. Selwyn was relieved by seeing them, as Mrs. Saville had related to her the deplorable state of mind into which Caroline had fallen on hearing of her husband's death.

Colonel Clairville found his wife in the last stages of a lingering illness, which she had concealed from him in her letters. Clairville had flattered himself that his acquaintance with Antonia had never by any accident been made known to her, and he devoted all his time to soothe and alleviate the disease by which she had

Digitized by Google

been afflicted, and which threatened a speedy termination to her existence; but though engrossed by his attention to his wife, he did not for a moment banish from his recollection the widowed and forlorn wife of Bellgrove. Indeed, so long had she been the subject of his thoughts, that she seemed now to have become a part of them, accompanied by a feeling that he did not exactly understand, and could not easily have defined.

Lady Bellgrove, the mother of Bellgrove, was the intimate friend of his wife Lady Darcy, and his own relation, and he endeavoured to excite an interest in her heart for his interesting friend. Lady Bellgrove was a widow, expensive in her habits and not rich, and had been left with a large family and an encumbered fortune. She had been much offended by her son's imprudent marriage, and still more indignant at his thoughtless conduct: his death, however, had softened her heart in his favour, and made some atonement for

Digitized by Google

his failings. She listened to Clairville's account of the forlorn state of his wife and child with interest, and promised to receive her.

The meeting took place under favourable auspices, and the mother and daughter were mutually pleased with each other.

Caroline felt grateful for such an asylum, though told it could only be a temporary one. Lady Bellgrove soon expected her eldest son to return from abroad, where he filled a diplomatic situation. He was still unmarried, and resided with her. She had lately married her two daughters satisfactorily, so that, fortunately for Caroline, she was now alone. Caroline had nothing to depend on but her widow's pension, which, though in black, hardly furnished her with the style of dress fit to appear in Lady Bellgrove's drawing-room, and keep a nurse for her child. Caroline exerted her talents and power of pleasing in making herself useful to her

Digitized by Google

mother-in-law, and though by no means easily pleased, so far succeeded, that Lady Bellgrove was soon never satisfied without her.

The health of Mrs. Bellgrove improved with her spirits; her person became round, her complexion more blooming, and could she have prevented heart-rending recollections from recurring, she would have given way to her naturally cheerful disposition, and have been once more gay. She knew that she owed her present situation to Colonel Clairville, and the sad reverse of what she would have been, unsupported by his benevolent kindness, awakened in her grateful heart the most tender regard. His image filled her sleeping as well as waking thoughts, and his name was blended with her prayers, with emotions new and indefinable: it was friendship, esteem, heightened to veneration. The distance of his manners gave her a kind of awe that checked a more tender sensation.

Digitized by Google

Caroline, accompanied by Lady Bellgrove, visited Lady Darcy, the wife of Clairville; and here her admiration of Clairville was increased by his attentions to his wife. Lady Darcy appeared older than Lady Bellgrove, and had never been handsome; she was now emaciated and pale, and her countenance, Lady Bellgrove told her, on their leaving the house, had lost its energy. She received the young widow with distinguished kindness, though a hectic flush suffused her cheek as Clairville, not without emotion, presented her.

Lady Bellgrove, on their return home, gratified the curiosity of Caroline by some particulars of her life, which, as it was now connected with Clairville, were highly interesting. "My friendship," said Lady Bellgrove, "with Lady Darcy commenced at school. She was the united heiress of two large families, and married by her friends, at a very early period of life, to a young nobleman, with whom she was not

Digitized by Google

happy. No children blessed the union, and a separation took place between them some years before his death. Once again her own mistress, and the uncontrolled mistress of her large fortune, Lady Darcy determined to please herself in the choice of a second husband, but she was long in making this election. Though surrounded by fortune-hunters of all ranks and descriptions, she had nearly attained her fiftieth year before she met with my young relation, Colonel Clairville: the overtures were made from her to him, and she has not had reason to repent her choice. But disproportionate marriages," observed Lady Bellgrove, "are rarely happy ones. Clairville is now scarcely thirty, and Lady Darcy sixty. One son was the offspring of their union, who died last year; and his loss, added to an internal complaint, which had been gradually undermining her constitution for some years, threatened the most alarming consequences, and have given a religious turn to her mind; so

Digitized by Google

that all her time is now employed in fitting herself for that state into which she seems about to enter."

This account of Lady Darcy awakened a new interest for her in the mind of Caroline. She felt too for Colonel Clairville, whose tenderest feelings, she knew, must be excited by the situation of his wife; and she knew that he must wish to make amends for the errors into which he unwarily had been betrayed in his highly culpable, though short connexion with Antonia Dolrandos.

Clairville seldom came to Lady Bellgrove's, and from not often seeing Mrs. Bellgrove, he was better able to observe the improvement of her health and person. It was with something like alarm he saw her every day become handsomer, and he had heard with sensations almost painful that Lady Bellgrove's drawing-room was once more the centre of attraction to the fashionable world: it had become the resort of fashionable men, as

Digitized by Google

well as fashionable women. At the desire of Lady Bellgrove, Caroline had cultivated her taste for music, and had become a proficient on the harp as well as pianoforte, and sang with excellent taste and skill.

Among the gentlemen who visited Lady Bellgrove was Lord Arranley, a young nobleman of elegant manners and prepossessing appearance, who soon declared himself the admirer of the beautiful young widow. Lady Bellgrove saw and encouraged his attentions, and Caroline was soon importuned to receive his hand. His merit and attractions were great; yet Caroline felt an insuperable repugnance to receive his addresses, and certainly had not encouraged them. Lord Arranley lamented her coldness, and Lady Bellgrove advised and remonstrated: she reminded her of her dependent situation, and the advantage such a connexion would be of to her child. Here the heart of Caroline was vulnerable, and this plea had its

Digitized by Google

weight in inducing her to listen to the addresses of Lord Arranley with a complacency that encouraged hope, though she was averse to giving a decided answer.

At this period Colonel Clairville appeared one evening in the drawing-room of Lady Bellgrove, when Lord Arranley was hanging enraptured over the form of Caroline, as she sung a tender air to her harp. Colonel Clairville involuntarily started, and a conviction of the truth for a moment agitated his mind, and suffused his face with crimson. Lady Bellgrove saw, and made her own comments on his emotion, and took this opportunity to express her satisfaction at Lord Arranley's attentions, and her hopes of Caroline's acceptance of them.

"Does she betray any reluctance to receive them?" inquired Colonel Clairville, in a voice of much emotion, and with looks nearly convulsed.

"The most decided," replied her Ladyship; "and nothing but my arguments

Digitized by Google

in favour of her child will, I am certain, have any effect; and I wish you," continued she, earnestly surveying him, "to unite your influence with mine in overcoming her reluctance to this very advantageous offer of Lord Arranley's."

"Certainly," Clairville attempted to say, but his voice at the moment refused utterance, and he listened to her further observations without answering.

Caroline at this moment left her harp, and came towards them; she had not seen the Colonel for some days, and offered her hand in her usually affectionate manner. He held it without pressing it, as he was accustomed to do: she perceived that his hand was cold, and fancied it trembled; his looks too she saw were embarrassed, and she turned to Lady Bellgrove in hopes to learn the cause of his evident disturbance, and inquired of her in a whisper after the health of Lady Darcy. Clairville heard the question, and hastily withdrew.

Lady Bellgrove had penetration enough to discover, both from the silence and agitation of Clairville, that he would not advocate the cause of Lord Arranley, and her suspicion of his sentiments for Mrs. Bellgrove, which she had long entertained, were confirmed. She determined to alarm the pride and awaken the feelings of Caroline, by communicating her opinion of Colonel Clairville's attachment to her, and intimating her suspicions, with some degree of irony, that if it were not for the trifling obstacle of his having already a wife in the way, she doubted not that he would declare his sentiments. She finished with observing, that though his wife's illness was incurable, it might, and probably would, be of long continuance. Mrs. Bellgrove was inexpressibly shocked at this conversation, and for the first time in her life felt afraid to examine her own thoughts. She had, like many others, in early life indulged the romantic but erroneous idea that the heart can love but

Digitized by Google

once, and her first affections had been thrown away on an ungrateful object. The loss of her husband's affections, and the awful and melancholy consequences which had resulted from it, had, she believed, steeled her heart for ever from the intrusion of more tender sentiments than those which arose from friendship; and it was under this disguise, that the refined and unremitting attentions of Colonel Clairville had obtained gradual ascendancy over her mind and actions. This influence had been as imperceptible in its progress as it was now resistless in its effects, and she was not aware how far her regard for Colonel Clairville was superseding every other sentiment in her mind, until aroused by the insinuations of Lady Bellgrove. She knew well his existing situation; her wishes had always been bounded by her hopes; and she seemed now to reflect for the first time on the impropriety of her intimacy with a married man.

Accustomed for a long time to his

Digitized by Google

society and attentions, she was not sensible how necessary they had become to her until deprived of them. She now felt that, though surrounded by gaiety and splendour, and admired by a little circle, of which she herself was the ornament, that the heart feels a vacuum in the absence of a preferred object, which nothing else can supply:

> "The something still that's unpossess'd
> Saddens and leavens all the rest."

and her mind, though surrounded by gaiety and admiration, was sinking into apathy, when her feelings were awakened into exertion by the addresses of Lord Arranley, and the advice and remonstrances of Lady Bellgrove. It became immediately a question—whether she could without regret relinquish the cherished sentiments of her heart for Clairville? Gratitude, friendship, accompanied perhaps by more latent (though to herself unknown) sentiments, told her they could

Digitized by Google

neither be relinquished nor obliterated. The doubt then conscientiously arose as to the propriety of giving her hand to a man who possessed not every sentiment of her heart. Lady Bellgrove's anxiety to promote what she considered her welfare and happiness, made her urge the cause of Lord Arranley with more zeal than delicacy; and the conflict in the mind of Caroline became so strong as to occasion a nervous fever, which excited much alarm in her friends.

During this interval of anxiety and alarm, a packet was received by Mrs. Bellgrove, directed in an unknown hand. The contents of this mysterious packet made her fancy the days of necromancy and magic were revived again: it contained a draft on the Bank of England for ten thousand pounds, bearing date from the commencement of the year in which she received it. Amazement at first so completely suspended her faculties, that it was some time before she could commu-

Digitized by Google

nicate the inexplicable contents of this letter to Lady Bellgrove, whose surprise equalled her own. Vain were their conjectures and researches to discover the unknown benefactor. They mentioned the circumstance to Colonel Clairville, who seemed as much in the dark as themselves; and the whole business remained an inexplicable mystery.

Mrs. Bellgrove, by this fortunate event, was relieved from any immediate persecution, on the score of Lord Arranley, by Lady Bellgrove. By the possession of this sum, Caroline was placed in a situation to compromise all her wishes as to wealth: it would give to her all moderate comforts of life, and enable her to enjoy the society of the friends she most loved —and more she wished not for. She wrote an account of her good fortune to Mrs. Selwyn and Mrs. Saville, and received their most heartfelt congratulations.

Happiness now once more seemed to be within the reach of Caroline, and could

Digitized by Google

she have banished past scenes from her remembrance, she might have been cheerful. Her child daily improved; and though its strong resemblance to its father gave a pang to her heart, she caressed it with rapture, and was grateful it resembled him.

Lady Darcy understanding that the child of Caroline was her husband's godchild, paid to it the greatest attention. She knew the leading circumstances of Mrs. Bellgrove's melancholy story, all except such as had any reference to her husband; and though the child reminded Lady Darcy of her own lost blessing, she saw it gratified her husband to have the child of Bellgrove noticed by her, and at length grew fond of it herself. Caroline seldom went to Lady Darcy, and the report of her approaching marriage with Lord Arranley made her regard the infant as an helpless orphan, that made it still more interesting.

The morning-post of the day gave the

Digitized by Google

first information to the breakfast circle at Lady Bellgrove's that Colonel Clairville had solicited and obtained a command abroad, and in a few days was to embark for the Continent. The voice of Caroline trembled as she read it; but Lady Bellgrove's surprise being as great as her own, she did not notice it. Meantime Colonel Clairville, having paid his farewell visit at Court, called to make his adieus in the drawing-room of Lady Bellgrove. He was in full military costume, and the ladies thought they had never seen him look so well; but he was grave, and, as the moment approached for his departure, evidently agitated. He requested to see the child, and having affectionately embraced it, threw round its neck, attached to a ribbon, a miniature of himself, and rising at the same moment, hastily kissed the hand of Lady Bellgrove. The feelings of Caroline had with difficulty been suppressed until this moment. The remembrance of Clairville's unremitted friendship

Digitized by Google

for herself, his long intimacy with her husband, and the many melancholy remembrances revived, crowded to her mind, and agonized it with emotions too exquisite for endurance. Tears happily came to her relief, and subdued the distress of her mind. Clairville surveyed her tears with a delight that flashed from his eyes, though they *too* were suffused; he surveyed her for the last time, and pressing her hand to his lips with a suppressed sigh, bade her farewell, and hurried out of the house, leaving on the mind of Caroline an apprehensive sensation that she should see him no more.

Though always received with attentive kindness by Lady Darcy, she had fancied that she had showed symptoms of dissatisfaction at her husband's too friendly attentions to her, and on that account forbore to make her visits too frequent; but since the departure of Colonel Clairville, Caroline found herself not only

Digitized by Google

kindly received, but warmly urged to be as much with her as possible.

The mind of Lady Darcy was endowed with knowledge; her manners were gentle; and her mind, though weakened by sickness, was rendered mild and patient by religion. She had ceased to enjoy life, and would tranquilly have departed from it, could she have resigned with composure her idolized husband; but her love for him attached her to the world, and made her pray to have her life, though embittered by sufferings, prolonged.

Lady Darcy and Mrs. Bellgrove saw much to admire and love in each other, and had their acquaintance been unconnected with Clairville, they would have been intimate; but a consciousness on one side, and an apprehension of being suspected of insincerity on the other, stopped the progress of their regard. Caroline condemned herself for the disposition she felt of remaining with Lady Darcy,

Digitized by Google

conscious it arose from her desire of receiving the earliest intelligence from Clairville, and this determined her to leave town and visit her friends in the country. Lady Darcy parted from her with symptoms of esteem and regret.

Lady Darcy lamented the departure of her husband, yet said she was not surprised that at his time of life he should wish to add to his honour and his fame; but sighed as she mentioned her apprehension that she should see him no more.

Before Mrs. Bellgrove left town, she declined in the most decisive manner Lord Arranley's recently repeated offers: he received his dismissal with a regret that threatened to impair his health.

Caroline parted from Lady Bellgrove with the warmest sentiments of respect and affection. Lady Bellgrove was offended at her refusal of Lord Arranley, but promised to write to her.

Caroline went first to her friend Mrs. Selwyn, where she received a letter from

Digitized by Google

Mrs. Saville, mentioning the death of her husband, and intreating the consolation of a visit from her in her affliction. Caroline obeyed the summons without delay. She found her in a large and comfortable house, though denominated a cottage, in one of the most romantic parts of South Wales. This house, with a small park and garden, she inherited from her brother, Captain Somerville. The house and furniture were old-fashioned, but convenient. In one of the apartments was a portrait of Captain Somerville in regimentals, taken previous to his departure for America: it was an admirable likeness, and Caroline surveyed it with indefinable emotion. It recalled forcibly to her recollection the morning she had last seen him, when marching away to battle: it reminded her too of the Eolian harp, his last gift, and she determined to send for it.

Mrs. Saville led her to the garden, which had been planned and embellished

Digitized by Google

by her brother previous to his going abroad. At one end of it stood a light building, shaded with luxuriant vines, which opened to a wild and beautiful country, in front of which was a waterfall, which descended into a basin, and wandered through the garden. On the banks of this river, and in front of the small building, which had been dignified with the name of a temple, Mrs. Saville had erected a pedestal and placed on it an urn, on which she had engraven the name of her brother, and the memorable action in which he had lost his life. This urn was shaded by trees of laurel, cypress, and willow; and here, as the shade of evening closed, the two friends loved to wander and recall "the scenes of other days," until the dewy star of evening reflected its pale light through the umbrageous trees that shaded the river.

The harp, arrived, and new strung, was placed by the hand of Caroline in the bower, and as its wild and dulcet tones

Digitized by Google

blended with the sounds of the distant waterfall, her mind wandered to the solitary spot where the gallant Saville's remains were buried: she remembered the place, and fancied she saw the evening sun gleam faintly over his grave. There is a luxury in grief when its excess has subsided, and when it arises as in the present instance from feelings of an exquisite nature, but which are indefinable; and to this romantic place Caroline had removed her work and favourite books.

The situation of Mrs. Saville, though delightful, was solitary, and the demon of ennui, notwithstanding their various resources, found entrance into it. They had few neighbours with whom they could associate; they were a long walk from the neighbouring village, and seldom made excursions from home but to visit Mrs. Saville's children, who were at some distance from them. A weekly paper and occasional letters from their friends was all the communication they held with the

Digitized by Google

metropolis. The season now too was far advanced;

> "Faint in the yellow broom the oxen lay,
> And the mute birds sat silent on the spray."

One still evening, as the widowed friends sat at an open window, listening to the mellow sound of the village bells as they floated from a distance on the air, and wondered what they might portend, the postman's horn sounded shrilly at the door, and they flew to receive their letters. That from Lady Bellgrove claimed the preference; it contained a few affecting lines and a newspaper, which was eagerly perused with a fearful foreboding of its contents. A glorious victory, accompanied by a dreadful slaughter, was announced. At the head of the killed was the name of the gallant Colonel Clairville, who fell on the first onset covered with wounds. A shriek from Mrs. Bellgrove announced to her friend that she had read the fatal tidings. "Sainted spirit of

Digitized by Google

Clairville!" she faintly murmured, as she fainted on the bosom of her friend.—"He has met the death he courted," sighed Mrs. Saville; "Peace to the brave!"

The shock was too severe for the shattered nerves of Lady Darcy, who sunk under it. She left a large portion of her wealth to Caroline, which she spent in acts of beneficence: though she never enjoyed happiness in her own person, she possessed the exquisite bliss of conferring it on others.

The news of Clairville's death at no very distant period reached the convent which contained the penitent Antonia Dolrandos. A sigh of regret for him, blended with more agonized recollections of Bellgrove, passed over her mind with sensations so acute as to show it was still vulnerable to feeling. The severe and self-inflicted penances of a monastic life, by which alone she expected to make atonement for her errors, had chilled her once acute feelings into a state of apathy.

Digitized by Google

The faculties of her mind seemed now absorbed by only one idea: every thought condensed into the hope of being near her entrance into that state where sin and sorrow should be no more. Music alone retained its influence over her mind, and when the "pealing anthem" swelled the note of praise, her heart seemed to dilate, and the tears which streamed in torrents from her eyes showed that it still retained its energies.

The sum of ten thousand pounds, so miraculously received by Mrs. Bellgrove, was the sum brought to England by Antonia Dolrandos. In a penitential letter to Colonel Clairville, she had requested it might be devoted to the use of Bellgrove's widow and child. He had conceived it necessary to conceal from Caroline, for a time, from whom she had received it; and thinking, most justly, that Caroline was induced by the exigence of her circumstances alone to accept of Lord Arranley, he took the opportunity (as has

Digitized by Google

been already stated) of conferring on her the offering of Antonia. A letter to this effect was found among the papers of Clairville after his decease; also his request to his wife, Lady Darcy, before he departed for the Continent, to double the sum given by Antonia, should he never return.

The event proved his presentiment just, and his will was executed by his wife, who breathed her last sigh in the arms of Mrs. Bellgrove.

Digitized by Google

ZELITE.

Sir William Ponsonby, by the death of a relation, became possessed of a large property in an island in the West Indies, which, from its fertility and various other advantages, had become a popular subject of conversation. Sir William, induced by curiosity, as well as interest, to see a country of which so much had been said, determined on visiting his new acquisition, and prevailed on his wife to accompany him.

Sir William Ponsonby, though unacquainted with this particular colony, had passed much of his time in the West Indies, and was no stranger to its customs. To Lady Ponsonby it was all new. The

Digitized by Google

beauty and magnificence of the scenery, which travellers allow to surpass what is to be met with in the Old World, and the variety of its produce, afforded to Lady Ponsonby a never-failing source of wonder and delight, which elevated her mind to a contemplation of that beneficent Being, who supplies to all creatures who bear his image those comforts necessary to their preservation; and when she beheld the sable sons of Africa,

"Whose souls proud Science had not taught to stray
Far as the solar walk, or milky way,"

bending under every depression from exile and slavery, enjoying a thousand domestic comforts, reclining at noon-day, during their intervals from labour, under the shade of their own vine, she felt there was no situation so abject as not to excite His care, and none so miserable as not to admit of alleviation. Sir William's estate was situated in a beautiful valley, surrounded by mountains whose lofty summits, half

Digitized by Google

enveloped in grey mist, reminded her of the imagery of Ossian; and whilst gazing at the stars which glimmered at their tops, she almost expected to see shadowy forms descend.

A West Indian town, even in the old islands, has little to recommend it to an European; and the excessive heat of the sun, the dust, and inconvenience of the houses, made Lady Ponsonby quit it for cooler air and pleasanter prospects. The dispersed state of families in new settled colonies is altogether unfavourable to female society, and Lady Ponsonby was obliged to have recourse to those resources with which nature and education had bountifully gifted her. Sir William, inured to the climate and fond of its customs, dined often abroad, and sat late at the bottle. Lady Ponsonby at first mildly remonstrated on the injury his health was likely to sustain; but finding her persuasions useless, she forbore to make them, and contented herself with repining in

Digitized by Google

secret at the disparity of their sentiments, which never led them to seek amusement in the same objects.

Lady Ponsonby had been compelled by her friends to marry Sir William, and relinquish the object of an early attachment; but though reason and religion had united their sway over her mind, she still bore about with her "a charmed heart:" solitude awakened remembrances she held it criminal to indulge, and to avoid them she was compelled to seek such society as the neighbourhood afforded. An invitation to the wedding of a neighbouring planter's son afforded some relief to her thoughts, and she accepted it with avidity. The situation was romantic, the house large, and the company numerous.

A long course of family intimacy was to be cemented by the marriage of Mr. Raymond's son with the daughter of a neighbouring planter. The company were detained several days. The bride was pretty, but uneducated, and the indolence

Digitized by Google

of her manners and her awkward gestures deprived her person of all pretensions to grace and elegance. Lady Ponsonby, without being sufficiently intimate in the family to form any conjectures, was struck with the dejected air of the bridegroom, whose looks were averted from the object that should have engaged them. His countenance, though now overspread with gloom, appeared full of animation, and his large dark eyes beamed with sensibility; at the present moment the excess of his feelings had suffused them with tears. A look from Lady Ponsonby, directed by one of those "pure and white-winged agents of the sky, who rule the springs of sacred sympathy, and inform congenial spirits when they meet," appeared to awaken him into recollection, and he supported the ceremony with composure, though with evident reluctance. Lady Ponsonby sighed as she made her congratulations at what she considered a sacrifice to Plutus.

Digitized by Google

As the entertainments consisted merely of eating and dancing, Lady Ponsonby soon began to sigh for solitude; and taking advantage of the ease and freedom which characterizes the inhabitants of warm climates, she wandered one evening to some distance from the house, having taken the precaution of making a black servant follow her, who had armed himself with a cutlass to defend them against the snakes, which in this country, though not venomous, are of an enormous size. Lady Ponsonby took an unfrequented path through a deep wood, which was beautifully interspersed with trees of the *bois immortel*, which being in full blossom, enlivened the deep foliage. The sounds of a distant waterfall directed her steps that way. The water descended from a height of two hundred and fifty feet; its course was in some places impeded by various obstructions, which took something from its grandeur, though they added to its beauty. The sides of the mountain

Digitized by Google

were thickly clothed with trees overgrown with moss, and flowering shrubs of various and exquisite beauty.

Lady Ponsonby gazed delighted at the romantic beauties of this sequestered spot. On looking round she beheld, entering from a little thicket which had concealed him from her view, young Raymond, who like herself appeared anxious to indulge his reflections in solitude. They smiled at the similarity of taste which had directed their steps to the same place, and seated themselves on the branches of an old tree, which lying across the water helped to check its progress. They listened in silence to its sound, as it glided rather than rolled down the hill. The tones of a guitar, tastefully but irregularly struck, accompanied by a voice of plaintive but exquisite melody, now echoed faintly through the wood. Lady Ponsonby had not recovered from her surprise when loud and piercing shrieks made her follow the footsteps of Raymond, who, unmindful of

Digitized by Google

her presence, flew through the wood. They arrived in time to rescue a young and very beautiful female from a large snake, from which she was endeavouring to escape, when the stump of a tree, concealed by the grass, had occasioned her to fall, just as Raymond arrived to her assistance. One stroke of the negro's cutlass severed the head of the snake from the body, and left Lady Ponsonby at leisure to contemplate the situation of Raymond, who raising the young lady in his arms, exclaimed in the most passionate accents, "Zelite! adored Zelite! tell me, are you hurt?"

The uncommon loveliness of the object he was supplicating, her seclusion in scenes so wild, and the tenderness of Raymond's expressions, excited suspicions in Lady Ponsonby by no means favourable to either.

The young lady, on recovering her recollection, disengaged herself from the arms of Raymond, and leaning against a

Digitized by Google

tree for support, entreated him with earnestness to depart. "Not," replied he, "till I have seen you in a place of safety." He then requested Lady Ponsonby to allow her servant to attend Zelite; saying that she lived within an inclosure of lime hedges, which appeared at a little distance between the trees. Lady Ponsonby, whose interest and curiosity became every moment more excited, proposed they should all go, to which Raymond assented, saying there was a shorter way to his father's house through that path. The road lay through an avenue of fruit trees, some of which were in blossom, and perfumed the air with their fragrance, the others loaded with the rich and spicy fruits of the tropics, presented a new scene of beauty to Lady Ponsonby; she followed her companion, who walked in silence to a small thatched hut, shaded by trees of the changeable Chinese rose. An elderly mulatto woman was seated at the door and regaling herself with a mess of

Digitized by Google

pepper-pot, composed of nutritious roots and vegetables; she arose to receive them, and Zelite, evidently anxious to avoid further observation, curtsied low to Lady Ponsonby, and with an air of dignified modesty, retired to the house without speaking. Every thing combined to increase the wonder of Lady Ponsonby, and excited a curiosity she could with difficulty suppress.

"The unfortunate young person from whom we have just parted," said Raymond, after a long pause and with some hesitation, "is not unworthy the attention of Lady Ponsonby." "She is extremely beautiful," said her ladyship, whose conjectures were still unfavourable. "She is no less amiable," he replied with warmth, (as if divining her thoughts,) "or I would not have presumed to have named her to your ladyship; however you might have been interested; condescend, madam, to hear from her own lips the uncommon cruelty of her situation, and you

Digitized by Google

who are superior to all prejudice, will find Zelite not unworthy your protection; should such be the event of her relation," continued he, "I shall be as happy as I can now be, deprived of her for ever!"

Lady Ponsonby, in whom his last speech had banished much suspicion, promised to see Zelite in the morning, and Raymond had the inexpressible delight on opening his window in the morning to behold Lady Ponsonby attended by her servant galloping to the wood.

The clouds were just dispersing when Lady Ponsonby mounted her horse: the mists still rested on the tops of the hills, or crept slowly up their sides; in some places they were condensed; in others they formed a thin veil for the trees and shrubs with which the hills were thickly clothed.

Lady Ponsonby arrived at the hut where she had parted with Zelite, the preceding evening. She was informed that she lived in her own house on the mountain,

Digitized by Google

and that she could ascend on horseback, and the Mulatto woman sent a man who knew the road to attend her. The ascent became so steep as to oblige her to alight and walk the rest of the way. In a dell of the mountain, and shrouded with trees, stood the habitation of Zelite; it consisted of two apartments, which were supported by poles, and nearly covered by cerat, and of so fine a texture as to exclude the rays of the sun; in the front was a small portico supported by slight poles, interwoven with the flexible branches of the cocorite and cocoa-nut, over which Zelite had thrown a wreath of wild flowers with which the island abounds. If Lady Ponsonby was surprised at this edifice, Zelite was much more surprised to see her ladyship at the door of her humble hut; but recollecting it was with Raymond she had seen her the preceding evening, she promised herself a favourable result from the visit. The benignity of Lady Ponsonby's counte-

Digitized by Google

nance, and the insinuating softness of her manners, soon dissipated the reserve of Zelite, who, after prevailing on her to refresh herself with a slight repast of fruits and milk, complied with her entreaties, and related to her those circumstances respecting her situation to which Raymond alluded. She commenced her relation thus:—

"I am the daughter of Mr. Raymond's eldest brother and the child of a mustee woman who had belonged to his wife. My mother died in my infancy, and my father, tenderly attached to her memory, transferred to me the affection he had felt for her; he carried me with him to America, and placed me at Bethlehem, near Philadelphia, where there is a school for young women, kept by the Moravians; the extreme whiteness of my skin, and the uncommon clearness of my complexion, prevented any suspicion of my origin, and I was received and adopted by one of the matrons who had recently lost her only

Digitized by Google

child, with even maternal fondness. The sanctity and serenity of their lives, the strict observance of their religious rites, which were tinctured with superstition and tinged with gloom, impressed upon my mind every religious and moral duty. In this peaceful asylum, with people wholly secluded from the world, ignorant of its cares and above its concerns, I passed the first thirteen years of my life; my father then carried me to England, and took on himself the charge of enlarging my mind and cultivating my taste: he engaged masters to instruct me in all the fashionable accomplishments of my sex; and when my education was completed to his satisfaction, he proposed a tour through Great Britain, that, by a knowledge of men and manners, we might reduce our theories into practice. Having made this determination he summoned his nephew from St. Omer's, where he had just finished his studies, to accompany us; I was then for the first time introduced to Adolphus

Digitized by Google

Raymond, you have seen him, madam," said Zelite, blushing,—"I need not then enumerate his personal advantages, and I could not do justice to the goodness of heart and rectitude of mind which governed all his actions; nor will you be surprised that friendship among young people of different sexes and nearly the same age, should terminate in a more tender sentiment. My father had never mentioned my mother but with respect and affection; the strict rectitude of the Moravian women, joined to the retirement in which I had lived during the completion of my education by my father, who had placed me under the care of an elderly and pious lady, had left me in ignorance that such a thing as vice existed in the world. I dare not reflect on the memory of my father, but I have sometimes presumed to wonder at his conduct; and am surprised, conscious as he must have been of the disadvantages of my birth, that he should have encouraged the progress of an

Digitized by Google

attachment of which he early saw the rise, and which a little reflection must have shown him could only have been productive of misery to both. I have often thought, and many circumstances have combined to corroborate the idea, that he intended to unite and settle us in England without consulting the parents of Adolphus, as his own immense fortune made all pecuniary considerations unnecessary. We finished our tour by a visit to France and the Low Countries, where my father had business of importance to settle, and were preparing for a tour through Italy, when the sudden death of my father, in a fit of apoplexy, checked the career of felicity. Adolphus and myself, under the care of a lady and gentleman who had travelled with us, returned to England, and by the advice of my father's attorney (for he had left no will) embarked for the West Indies. The voyage was passed in lamentations for the loss of my father, and in promising everlasting fidelity to each other; the cry

Digitized by Google

of land gave equal satisfaction to both. Adolphus had not seen his parents since his infancy, and like myself was ignorant of my extraction, and, far from conceiving the humiliating discovery that awaited me, had been anticipating the delight his mother would feel when he presented to her her future daughter in her niece.

"Both Adolphus and myself had a taste for beautiful scenery, and had contemplated together what we had thought most pleasing both in England and in Wales. The appearance of this country, the highland now rising into mountains, then suddenly breaking into dells or softening into valleys where little settlements gave a promise of civilization; the barking of the watch-dog at a distance as we glided by moonlight near the darkly wooded shore and listened to the hum of insects,—lulled my mind into a treacherous serenity, but little calculated to prepare it for the important change it was to undergo. You will forgive me, madam," said

Digitized by Google

Zelite, "for dwelling on this scene, when you find it was the last of happiness I was to experience.

"Mr. Raymond came to receive his son, and gave the first shock to my feelings, by asking coldly if I was Zelite; on being answered in the affirmative by his son, who presented me to him under the endearing title of niece, he smiled I thought sarcastically, and surveying me with the most scrutinizing attention, he said 'Why, she is as white as your sisters!' I did not then comprehend the full force of his observation. An elegant phaeton was waiting at the wharf, into which Adolphus was assisting me, when his father suddenly drawing back his hand, said, 'Zelite will go into that gig with Cudgoe.' Adolphus looked petrified; whilst I, amazed and frightened, followed the black servant into a gig, drawn by a mule; he seated himself at my side, and we followed the phaeton at a distance. Astonishment for a few moments suspended all my

Digitized by Google

faculties; curiosity was predominant at length, and during the ride I gained such information as betrayed to me the misery of my fate. Cudgoe, my conductor, was my relation; he expressed great joy at seeing me look like Buckra's self, and himself conducted me to my grandmother, the mulatto woman, at whose house we were last night. I shrunk at first with disgust, not unmixed with horror, from her embraces; but kindness under any form soon became pleasing to me, and I gained permission to reside wholly with her. Adolphus, not less shocked or grieved than myself, resolutely persisted in his intention of marrying me. Alas! we were then unconscious of the full extent of my degradation and the immense distance between the coloured classes and the white inhabitants; on the strict preservation of which the safety of the colony depends.

"The various conflicts occasioned by the determination of Adolphus to marry

Digitized by Google

me, threw his mother into a fever, of which his father took advantage, by completing an union with the daughter of an old friend, which had been long planned in the family. Adolphus could refuse nothing to a dying mother, whose restoration to health appeared to depend on his compliance, and this marriage has restored peace to all parties. As my father died without a will, my uncle became his heir.

"I have passed rapidly over the most important scenes of my life, because I have not language to describe them, nor fortitude to dwell on them. You must, madam," continued Zelite, "have had experience to conceive them.—Annihilation, during the first paroxysm of despair, would have been a blessing, and for a short time all my faculties were suspended. Adolphus Raymond with difficulty obtained for me a small, but certain, maintenance from his father; it is sufficient for all the necessaries of life, and more than enough for

Digitized by Google

my wishes, if I can return to the peaceful asylum of my infancy, where I may perhaps find that peace which the world rarely affords, even to those who enter it under the highest auspices. Isolated as I now was, and my mind incapable of affording me resources or relief, I passed my life in wandering about this mountain and the adjacent woods. In one of my rambles I came into a settlement just above my present situation, which had been made by some Spaniards, who were natives of the country. I found some difficulty in understanding their language, which is a strange mixture of French and Spanish. They expressed much astonishment at seeing 'Buckra lady,' for so they persisted in calling me, wandering in the woods alone. I was enchanted with the beauty of their situation, which afforded a delightful prospect of the valley below, and the delightful estates, of which that of Mr. Raymond's was most conspicuous. I stood until the last rays of the sun were

Digitized by Google

departing, before I could prevail upon myself to descend; the deep foliage of the woods, the shrill sound of the shells from the valley below, mellowed by distance into softness, and denoting a long relaxation from labour, the busy hum of some insects, the luminous appearance of others, even the monotonous croaking of the crappaud was in unison with my feelings, and insensibly softened my mind into that pleasing kind of melancholy, which

'Wakes the tear 'tis luxury to shed.'

"In descending the hill a rustling among the leaves made me turn my head, and I beheld Adolphus Raymond near me. An interview between us could now only be productive of distress to both, and wishing to avoid particular and agonizing subjects, I mentioned my wish to inhabit a hut on the mountain; he thanked me for pointing out a way to gratify me, and engaged my new friends the Spaniards not only to build me this house, but to supply

Digitized by Google

me with every thing I might want. We have not again met, until chance brought him providentially to my rescue."

Here ceased Zelite, and so eagerly had Lady Ponsonby listened to her story, and so fascinated had she been with the grace of her manner in the recital, that she had not attended to the weather, though several heavy showers on the preceding days, accompanied by thunder and lightning, had announced the return of the rainy season. The thunder which had been for some time rolling at a distance, now appeared at their feet, and rain fell in torrents, as if threatening a general inundation. Lady Ponsonby looked fearfully at the structure of the hut; Zelite assured her of its security; at any rate she had no alternative but staying until the storm was past. She took a survey of the habitation; in one part was an aviary which she had filled with the most beautiful birds of the country, the agritee, the flamingo, the pawwee and parrot made

Digitized by Google

a considerable part of her family; and she informed Lady Ponsonby that on her first coming to the mountain, the monkeys and snakes had both denoted a wish to domesticate themselves with her, had she not discouraged their advances.

Lady Ponsonby engaged from Zelite a promise to reside with her. "I will live with you," said Zelite, gratefully, "for I am too near Adolphus Raymond to be too much alone. My little portico commands a view of his father's house, and I seldom quit it until all the lights are extinguished, and then I retire, as if my purpose was suspended until the next day."

It was near night before Lady Ponsonby descended the mountain, the path was wet, and the vapour, not yet exhaled by the setting sun, hung upon the hills. —The river in the morning which had been merely a brook, now rolled in muddy and impetuous torrents from the cascade, which presented one entire sheet of water.

Digitized by Google

She was in doubt about crossing the river until Raymond appeared and conducted her in safety over a more fordable part; scarcely could he refrain from prostrating himself at the feet of Lady Ponsonby, as he listened to her promise of protection for Zelite. A few days made her an inmate of Lady Ponsonby's hospitable mansion. Sir William received her with civility, and listened to her story with interest and surprize: he congratulated his wife on so unexpectedly finding a companion, and was secretly pleased at his own emancipation as he thought it; for now that his wife had a companion of whom she was fond, his presence, he was in hopes, would be no longer necessary. His absence soon became more frequent and longer.

Gratitude, which formed a striking feature in the character of Zelite, was most powerfully awakened for her benefactress; some secret dissatisfaction she observed preyed upon her mind, and her

Digitized by Google

health declined; to sooth and amuse her became the occupation of Zelite: her harmonious voice acquired new sweetness when singing to her friend, and from her harp she drew

"Soul soothing sounds of sweetest melody!"

A moment of confidence drew from Lady Ponsonby the artless tale of her youthful attachment.

Her father, Mr. Arnold, possessed a small living in a fertile country; he was surrounded by a numerous family, for whom he found it difficult to provide in a manner agreeable to his wishes. Two of his sons were already in the navy, and two had declared a predilection for the army: interest and money were alone wanting to induce him to comply with their wishes. One, he hoped, would succeed himself; another he intended for the law: these, with the addition of two lovely daughters, completed his family. His wife, descended from an ancient and

Digitized by Google

honourable house, had so far derogated from her dignity as to marry her eldest brother's tutor, and never more was honoured by the notice of her relations. Rich in every gift which nature and education could bestow, the mind of Arnold furnished her with an inexhaustible source of happiness, nor did she repent her election until the cares of a large family made them feel that their marriage, though eventually happy, had been most improvidently romantic. Eugenia, their eldest daughter, gave an early promise of uncommon loveliness, and the anxious hopes of her mother made her think she was destined to restore the fallen fortunes of the family. To accomplish this end no pains were spared in her education, and the talents which Nature had bountifully bestowed on her, were carefully cultivated until her accomplishments exceeded the most sanguine hopes of her parents. One of her brothers, who had lately obtained the rank of lieutenant, came to pass a few weeks with the family;

Digitized by Google

he was accompanied by a young friend, a few months senior in rank.

Mrs. Arnold anxious to preserve her daughter free from any attachment, until she had made her election, was alarmed, and somewhat disconcerted, at the introduction of Sidney Melleville into her peaceful dwelling. A more dangerous object could not have been presented to a young woman; particularly to one whose mind was inexperienced and unoccupied. He was the youngest son of a nobleman, and though he had to carve out his fortune, he had every requisite to promote the wishes of his friends: he had talents and bravery, joined to a person of uncommon elegance and manly beauty. Mrs. Arnold esteemed him as the companion of her son, but trembled for the peace of her daughter. Her fears were not without foundation—the young people became attached. Mr. Arnold by the advice of his wife carried his daughter into Wales, where she had long promised a visit; the

Digitized by Google

preparations for this little excursion, were made with such secrecy, that the young people were surprised into a parting without time for one adieu, but those which were expressed in the dejected looks of Melleville, and the tearful eyes of Eugenia.

Mrs. Arnold exerted herself in attentions to her son and guest, but the charm that had made the cottage pleasing, had vanished; and after a few languid days, young Melleville proposed to his friend a change of scene; Arnold wished to remain some time longer with his friends, and Melleville was suffered to depart alone.

He had travelled some time without any determined plan, when recollecting that he had an old aunt residing in Wales, and the image of Eugenia by some accident coming into his thoughts at the same moment, he turned his horses' heads and following the impulse of his heart, found himself after a very rapid ride of a few hours, in the vicinity of his aunt's house.

Digitized by Google

An indefatigable search after the object of his journey terminated in a church, where, far surpassing all surrounding beauties, the lovely Eugenia Arnold rose pre-eminent,—the roses in her cheeks told him he was observed. He could not make an acquaintance at the house without the assistance of Eugenia, who was too conscious of her mother's views, and the secret motive of her sudden removal, to attempt it. She could not, however, resist the pleasure of meeting him in a wood through which she often saw him pass.

Eugenia had been educated in the strictest rules of religion and piety, but she was young, ingenuous, and deeply in love, and so far had this newly-indulged sentiment overpowered every other, that a transient suspension of all other duties took place in the breast of Eugenia, and in a moment of infatuation she consented to elope with the equally ingenuous and sanguine Melleville.

Digitized by Google

Eugenia had not advanced many miles on her journey, when the rashness and imprudence of her conduct became apparent to her view. Shocked and humiliated, she threw herself into the arms of Melleville, and earnestly conjured him to return to the house before she should be missed by the family. Melleville almost alarmed at the consequences which must attend such an elopement both to himself and her, yet dreading nothing so much as losing her for ever, was at length induced to listen to her reasonings, and convinced by the tears which she shed, and the arguments she used, conducted her to the spot they had quitted.

The doors were still unbarred; the watch-dog had been fed by the hand of Eugenia, and grew silent at her approach. It was midnight: a gleam of moonlight broke through the towering branches of a lofty grove of oaks, and rested on a clear lake below. The perturbed feelings of the lovers seemed tranquillized by the

Digitized by Google

scene: Melleville pressed the hand of Eugenia to his heart, her head rested on his shoulder; he would have extorted a promise of everlasting fidelity. "You know my heart," she cried, "you cannot doubt it is all your own; but I can never violate my duty to my parents, by views they do not sanction."

Melleville tore himself away. Eugenia derived a degree of self-confidence from the conviction of acting right, which almost induced her to confide in her mother; but the austerity of her manner, and the certainty of her disapprobation of an union with Melleville, deterred her.

Eugenia heard, on her return to her mother's, that her brother had been some months on a cruize, and as Melleville belonged to the same ship, it was natural to suppose he had also gone. He had promised to send his letters under a feigned name to a neighbouring village, whither Eugenia had once sent by a young girl,

Digitized by Google

the daughter of a neighbouring farmer, and was surprised and piqued to find there was none for her; hours, days, and months passed languidly away, unenlivened by a single line, undiversified by a single incident. Her acquaintance with Sydney Melleville appeared like a dream, and almost as transient; but she could not obliterate from her mind that she had deceived her parents, and she held any sacrifice they might call on her to make, a just expiation of her offence.—This sacrifice was at hand.

Eugenia, introduced to the world under the auspices of her mother, at Bath, attracted the attention of Sir William Ponsonby; her mother's sanction, the various advantages of such a marriage, were held forth in the most glowing colours; among others (and this was the only one which appealed to the heart of Eugenia,) was her own declining health, which had induced her to visit Bath, and which her pale cheeks and emaciated form, too

Digitized by Google

plainly said it was not exaggerated. The advantage of such a marriage to the younger part of the family was obvious, especially if Sir William turned out the disinterested man he appeared to be. Arguments were vain, and entreaties useless; a few short months beheld Eugenia the wife of Sir William. Though some years older than herself, his manners were gay, and his person handsome, and his personal attractions, added to a splendid fortune, made her lot to be considered an enviable one.

Eugenia introduced into the circles of high life by her husband, became the idol of fashion. Sir William flattered by the admiration her figure every where excited, hurried her into a vortex of dissipation, which her hitherto secluded life, ill fitted her to enjoy: often in a crowded assembly, amidst profusion and ostentatious display of wealth, while listening to the silent voice of adulation, her mind reverted to the peaceful days of her youth,

Digitized by Google

and her heart, distrusting, asked "if this were joy?" Wishes for lost happiness, beat fervently, though silently, at her heart; and the image of Sydney Melleville, recalled to her recollection by a deed of valour, which had emblazoned his name amongst the heroes of the day, made her painfully sensible of the fallaciousness of all enjoyments in which the heart is not interested. In her mother's happiness, she alone found any compensation for the sacrifice she had made; and anxious to escape from the name of Melleville, which was resounded by a grateful nation, in songs to his praise, she pleaded indisposition, and returned to her paternal roof. The health of her mother had long been declining, and she was shocked at the alteration a few weeks had made in her looks.

Love, which has not esteem for its basis, cannot be of long duration; Sir William Ponsonby had been dazzled by the beauty of his wife, and this had lost its novelty: the beauties of her mind he was

Digitized by Google

incapable of appreciating. Long used to pre-eminence in the circles of fashion, he was the life of whim,—the soul of vanity. The soft pensiveness of his wife's manners had from its novelty interested, but it wanted variety,—and he languished for a change; yet, as long as she was an object of admiration to others, to him she was an object of estimation.

One day when indisposition confined her mother to her apartment, Mrs. Arnold gave to her daughter the keys of her bureau to search for some papers, which Mrs. Arnold directed to be brought to her. She was returning with them, when a large packet, tied with a piece of ribbon, caught her eye; she recognized the writing of Sydney Melleville, and with a trembling hand, opened it. It contained numerous letters, with the feigned signature they had agreed upon at their last parting; they were filled with protestations of everlasting fidelity; in some he accused her of neglect, in others, he feared his

Digitized by Google

letters had miscarried, and one of them inclosed his portrait. Tears stole from her eyes, when she beheld the well known features, and tender remembrances were stealing over her mind, when the voice of her father awakened her to recollection; she silently replaced the packet and withdrew. She resumed her place at the head of her mother, nor did her looks or words betray the discovery she had made.

Mrs. Arnold was soon in a state of convalescence, though little hopes were entertained of her perfect recovery, as she betrayed strong symptoms of a decline.

Sir William heartily weary of the monotony of a country life, and domestic scenes, proposed to his wife to accompany him to the West Indies; the advantages of such a voyage to Mrs. Arnold were obvious, but Sir William had been in the habit of studying his own convenience, and did not seem to listen to any observation which tended to Mrs. Arnold's accompanying them.

Digitized by Google

Eugenia, in consequence of her husband's desire that she should accompany him (in which her mother united), reluctantly bade adieu. Her sister Matilda was now old enough to succeed her in the office of nursing her mother, and relieving her from her household cares.—

Zelite wept over the story of Lady Ponsonby, and redoubled her assiduities to please. They wandered together through the woods, embellishing and improving the humble habitations of the slaves. Sometimes they attended their rude dances, and sometimes assisted at the orisons which these humble sons of nature sang to the memory of their deceased comrades, whose shades, like the ghosts of Ossian, they fancied hovering near the spot where they were buried.

Eugenia from the time she came abroad had devoted herself to pleasing her husband; to this she had been equally prompted by duty to her parents, respect to him, and consideration to herself; her

Digitized by Google

efforts, however, were unavailing, the coldness and apathy of his character were alone to be enlivened by scenes of dissipation and intrigue; and, since his residence in the West Indies, his conduct had been too notoriously abandoned, not to reach the knowledge of his wife. A fit of illness, the consequence of his irregularities, drew him at length to his neglected home; his wife unreproachingly administered her cares, in which she was assisted by Zelite.

Sir William had been occupied so much by some pursuit abroad, that on Zelite's first introduction to the house, he had scarcely noticed her. The friendship and affection of Lady Ponsonby had restored to her a degree of self-consequence, which had given to her manners their accustomed grace and fascination. Sir William listened with delight to the soft tones of her voice, as she read to him from some entertaining author, or sang to her harp.

Lady Ponsonby, the time of whose accouchement drew near, was necessarily

Digitized by Google

often absent, and it did not occur to the pure and unadulterated mind of Zelite, that any evil could arise from the attentions which gratitude suggested to the husband of her friend.

Sir William recovered, but he no longer complained of the dulness of his house; it was now possessed of a magnetic charm that enclosed him within its walls. Eugenia was the first to perceive the motive of this change, which made her tremble for the peace, as well as the reputation, of her young friend.

Sir William was vain, handsome, and unprincipled, he was besides languishing for variety, and Zelite was possessed of innumerable attractions.

The birth of a sickly infant confined Lady Ponsonby to her chamber, and although the attentions of Zelite were unremitting, Sir William found means to reveal to her the interest she had excited in his heart. Astonished, and terrified, Zelite would have fled the house, but

Digitized by Google

where could she seek a shelter? Her former hut would expose her too much to the insults of Sir William, should he be disposed to continue them; to confide in Lady Ponsonby, in her present delicate state of health, was impossible; Adolphus Raymond had promised to be to her a brother, and he was the only person interested in her fate. Yet here, were obstacles almost insurmountable,—in what way could he afford her protection without subjecting them both to the imputations of calumny. Various were her projects, but the unprincipled importunity of Sir William, left her no alternative, and a letter which she with some difficulty conveyed to Raymond, informed him of her situation. His affection for Zelite was interwoven with his existence; indignant and exasperated, he would have flown to her succour, had not family ties restrained him. To protect her with his life and fortune was his firm resolve, but in what way required deliberation; for the pre-

Digitized by Google

sent he placed her with her grandmother, whom he made answerable for her safety. A short half-explanatory note informed Lady Ponsonby of her departure and safety, at the same time entreating advice as to her destination.

Lady Ponsonby was less surprised than grieved; the conduct of her husband had awakened her suspicions, yet she had the most perfect reliance on the virtue of Zelite.

A mischievous head, and a diabolical heart, conceived the design of informing Mrs. Raymond, through the medium of a mulatress, of Zelite's being under the protection of her husband. Jealous and exasperated, she flew to his apartment, and reviling him in opprobrious epithets, exhausted her strength, until violent fits put a stop to her volubility. Astonished, and exasperated, (for, in the violence of her passion, Mrs. Raymond had betrayed her informer, and her employer,) Mr. Raymond left his house, and

Digitized by Google

in the first impulse of passion, called Sir William to an account for his conduct; high words ensued, which ended in a meeting that deprived Sir William of his life, and severely wounded himself. Consternation and horror overpowered the faculties of Raymond, as he surveyed the bleeding victim of libertinism; he shuddered at the idea of precipitating a human being into eternity, with all his vices unatoned. On attempting to raise him, he found that he still lived; a surgeon was sent for, who removed him in a litter to his own house. Raymond was also confined to his own room. Sir William languished two days, struck with sincere repentance, and he hesitated not to vindicate the conduct of Raymond, and died imploring forgiveness of his wife.

The compassionate mind of Eugenia induced her to seek the forlorn and almost distracted Zelite; she persuaded her to return to her house, and they became to each other a mutual consolation.

Digitized by Google

Eugenia soon made the necessary arrangements for her removal to Europe. Though shut out from all intercourse with the Raymond family on Zelite's account, she informed herself of the state of Adolphus, who was still languishing under his wound.

Nothing of consequence occurred during the voyage to Europe, until they arrived in the English Channel, when the approach of some French frigates excited great alarm. The enemy intercepted the convoy, and among the captured ships, was that in which Lady Ponsonby and Zelite were passengers. As it was then just at the recommencement of hostilities, they had before them the prospect of a very long captivity, and their spirits sunk into the deepest dejection. The child of Lady Ponsonby had suffered much from the fatigue of the voyage, and now that she was deprived of the comforts necessary for her sustenance, she had before her the gloomy prospect of losing her.

Digitized by Google

Rainy weather, and heavy fogs, impeded the progress of the voyage, and gave to some English ships an opportunity of recapturing the vessels.

The deep sound of British cannon gladdened the hearts of the fair prisoners. In a few moments victory was decisive, and the British flag once more waved over their heads. Lady Ponsonby enquired of an officer who came on board, the name of the captain by whom they were released,—her heart vibrated at that of Sir Sydney Melleville.

The weather was fine, and Sir Sydney gallantly requested that the female passengers should remove on board his ship. Surprise for a moment suspended his faculties on beholding Lady Ponsonby, whose mourning habit prepared him for some change in her circumstances. Eugenia was not less agitated, an involuntary hope arose unconsciously in her breast; for the first time she beheld the object of her early attachment, without the violation of

Digitized by Google

any duty. She enquired for her brother, and found that he had a ship in the squadron which Sir Sydney commanded. Their conversation insensibly reverted to past scenes; with past expectations, and subsequent disappointments, on which Sir Sydney dwelt with a sigh. It was a moment of confidence, unrestrained on the part of Lady Ponsonby by any tie; and she frankly related every circumstance respecting her union, and the discovery of the portrait and letters. Melleville remained silent for a moment, then exclaimed in a voice of suppressed agony, "this explanation comes too late, Eugenia, for I am married. Despair of obtaining your hand, and I will own, a little piqued at what I considered to be your indifference, in neglecting to answer my letters, I obeyed the dying command of my father, to marry his ward, who loves me"——

A long silence ensued, uninterrupted by any sound, save what was made by a gently undulating sea; the white sails

Digitized by Google

swelled to the breeze, and the sound of a few instruments which floated over the water, harmonized the scene ; but a few moments before, and it was in unison with the feelings of Eugenia,—now all was discord, and she felt

> "How ill the scene that offers rest
> And heart that cannot rest agree."

It still had charms for the pensive and afflicted mind of Zelite ; she watched the vessel as it slowly cut its way through the waves, and her thoughts turned to the visionary scenes of her youth, when peaceful and happy she had travelled on the bosom of the ocean, with her father and Raymond, and a tear of recollection stole down her cheek. Absorbed in reflection such as these, and literally indulging "the joy of grief," she heard not the voice of Lady Ponsonby, who had twice desired her to descend.

The time now appeared long until the voyage was finished. To avoid Melleville had again become the wish, as

Digitized by Google

well as the duty of Eugenia; but his deep melancholy and apparent agitation excited her compassion. His manners were dignified and reserved: his resolution at the moment of parting forsook him—his voice trembled, and his eyes were suffused —words came not to his aid, and words would have been insufficient to express his feelings,—a sigh spoke volumes, and its soft vibration on the heart of Eugenia declared it understood.

Lady Ponsonby arrived in time to prevent the marriage of her sister with a man she did not love, and prevailed on her mother, who was too late convinced that riches gave not happiness, to bestow her more happily, though more humbly. She related as much of Zelite's story, as was sufficient to excite an interest in her favour, without disclosing her origin.

The first year of Lady Ponsonby's widowhood was passed in retirement; when this was expired, accompanied by Zelite, and one of her brothers, she set off on a

Digitized by Google

tour through South Wales, leaving her child behind, to the care of her mother.

The brother who attended her on her travels, had been educated in retirement, and was destined for the church.

The gentleness of Zelite, her pensive manners, and cultivated mind, awakened feelings in his heart, until then unexperienced by him. Lady Ponsonby saw, and encouraged his attachment.

From Wales they returned to Bristol. Among the pale and emaciated objects who were courting the aid of Hygeia, at the springs, they found Raymond, lodged under the same roof. Zelite daily saw him, and with the approbation of Lady Ponsonby, endeavoured by her attentions to alleviate the disease, which was rapidly hurrying him to the grave.

The wound had produced a pulmonary complaint, beyond the power of art to heal. A hectic flush passed over his face, as he observed the attention of Mr. Arnold to Zelite; his death ap-

Digitized by Google

proached fast, and Lady Ponsonby could not refuse to Zelite the melancholy satisfaction of soothing his last moments by her presence.

The setting sun gleamed faintly on the features of Raymond as he breathed his last sigh in the supporting arms of Zelite.

By the will of Raymond, Zelite became entitled to the fortune of her father.—The sorrow occasioned by the death of Raymond yielded only to time; and the affection of Mr. Arnold, who, under the favouring auspices of his sister, made gradual progress in the affections of Zelite; but never was the memory of Raymond obliterated from her mind. The scenes of other days came often like the evening sun, mournful and pleasant to her soul.

Sir Sydney Melleville ran a bright career of glory, and died bravely in defence of his country. His funeral obsequies were performed with pomp by a grateful nation.

Digitized by Google

Lady Ponsonby, surrounded by her family, and blessed with the power of doing good, devoted her life to the education of her daughter, and to religious duties, which insensibly soothed her mind to peace and resignation.

Among the many tributes raised to the memory of Sir Sydney Melleville, was a mausoleum erected by Lady Ponsonby, and shaded by cypress. There, at the close of evening, she used to wander, and meditate on the instability of human greatness.

THE END.

J. AND C. ADLARD, PRINTERS,
BARTHOLOMEW CLOSE.

Digitized by Google

Digitized by Google

Digitized by Google

Digitized by Google

Digitized by Google

Digitized by Google